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(54) L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND A METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACIDS

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(57) ABSTRACT

A method for producing an L-amino acid is provided which includes culturing in a medium a microorganism of the Enterobacteriaceae family which has an ability to produce an L-amino acid and which has been modified so as to enhance the β -glucoside PTS activity, and collecting the L-amino acid from the medium or cells.

4 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

^{*} cited by examiner

Fig. 1

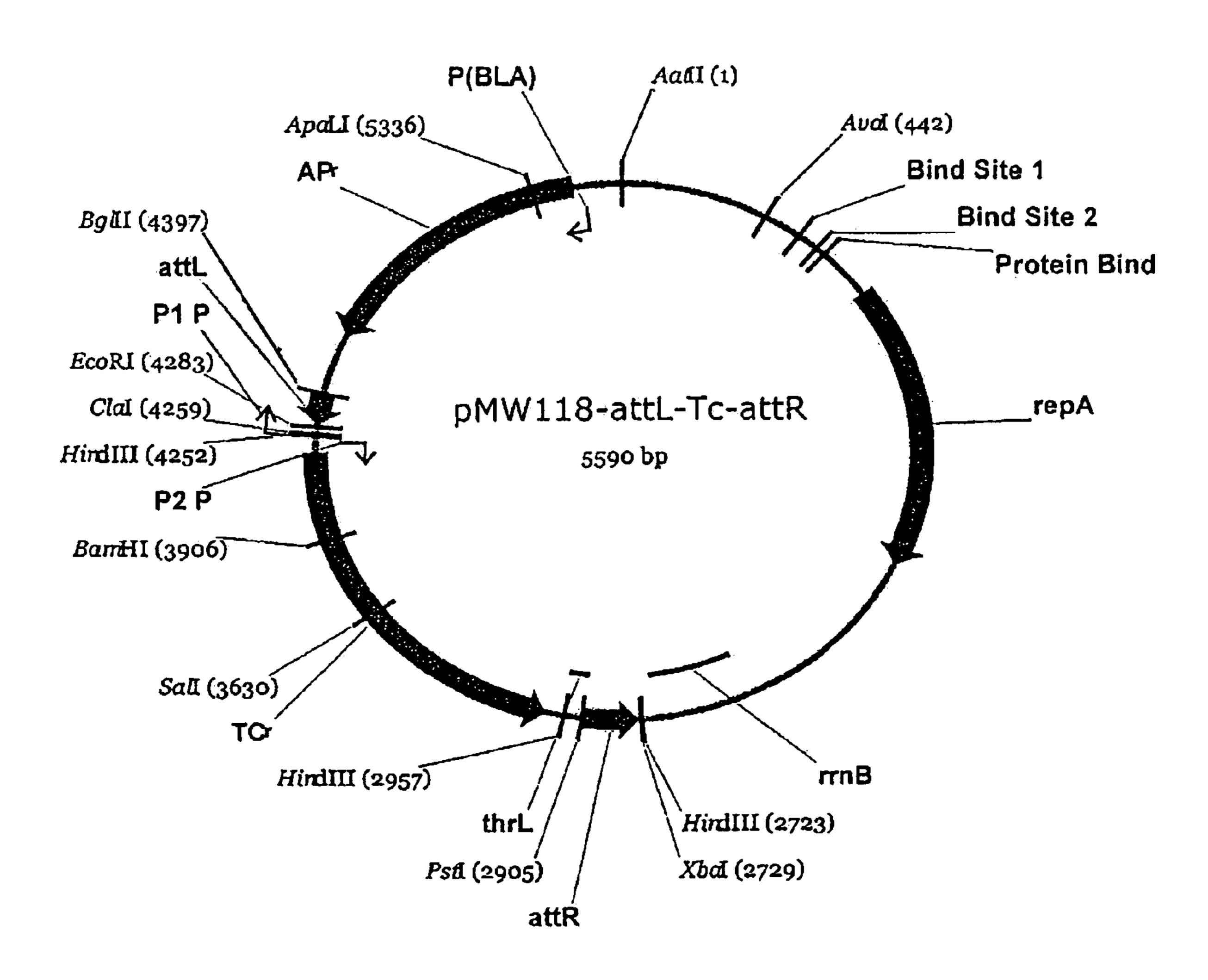


Fig. 2

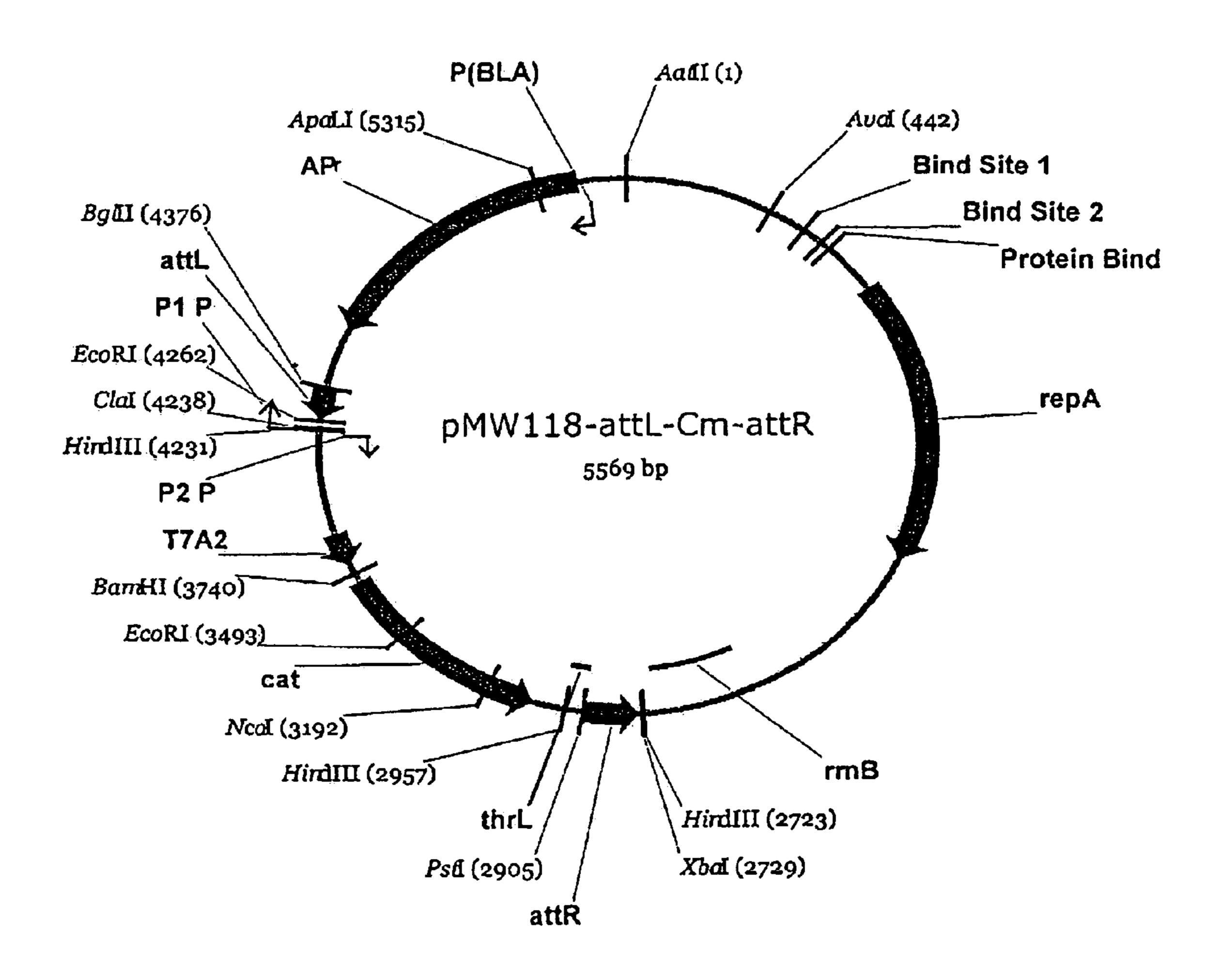
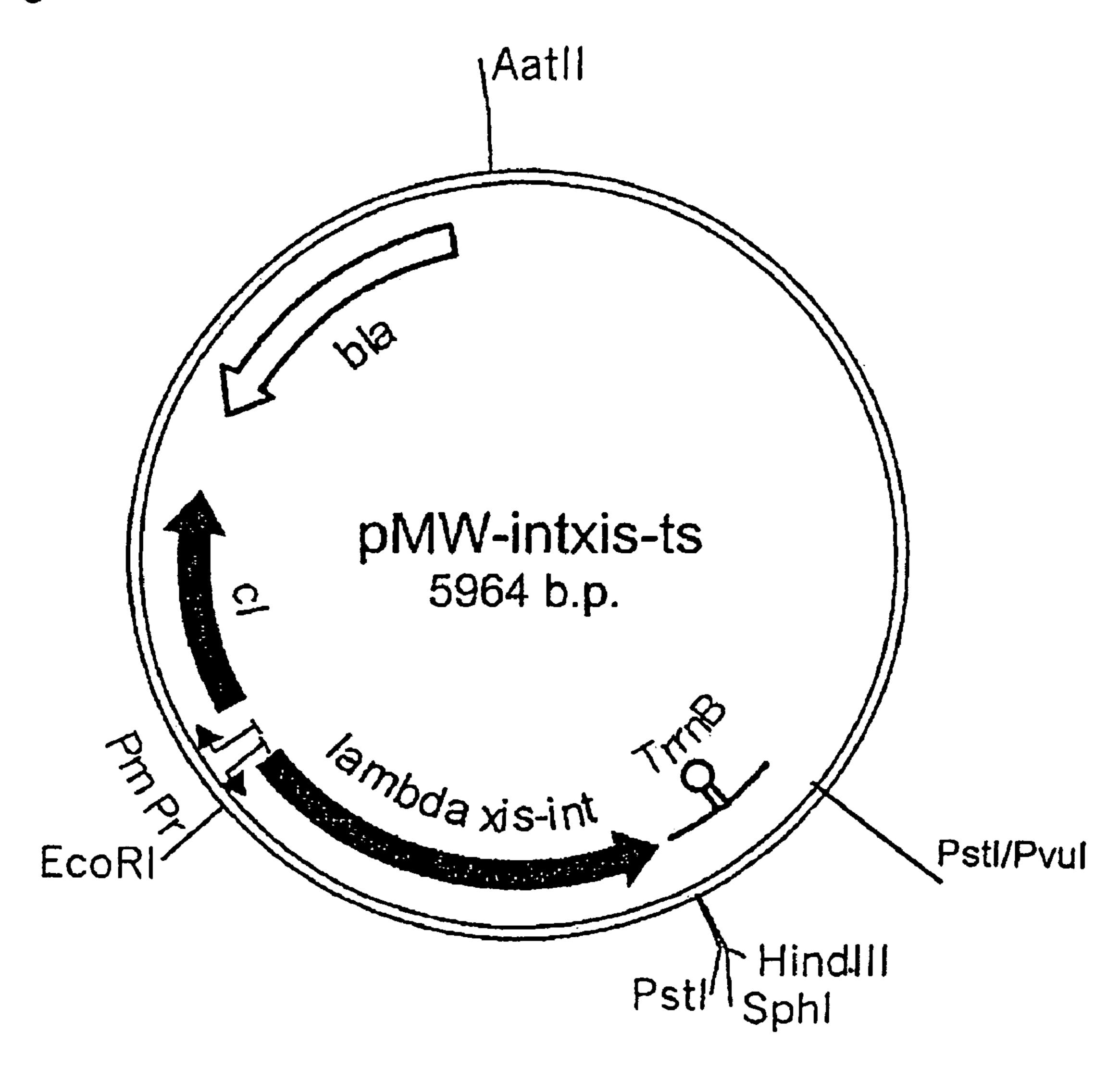


Fig. 3



L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND A METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACIDS

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to 5 Japanese Patent Application No. 2005-279025, filed on Sep. 27, 2005, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/723, 938, filed on Oct. 6, 2005, and Japanese Patent Application No. 2005-360671, filed on Dec. 14, 2005, and is a continuation application under 35 U.S.C. §120 to PCT Patent Application No. PCT/JP2006/319636, filed on Sep. 25, 2006, the contents of which are incorporated by reference in their entireties. The Sequence Listing filed electronically herewith Name: US-252_Seq_List_Copy_1; File Size: 81 KB; Date Created: Mar. 27, 2008).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

The present invention relates to a method for producing an L-amino acid using a microorganism, and more specifically, to a method for producing an L-amino acid, such as L-lysine, L-threonine, and L-glutamic acid, etc. L-lysine and L-threo- 25 nine are typically used as animal feed additives, health food ingredients, amino acid infusions, etc., and L-glutamic acid is typically used as a seasoning. Therefore, these are industrially useful L-amino acids.

2. Background Art

L-amino acids are industrially produced employing fermentation methods using microorganisms of the genera Brevibacterium, Corynebacterium, and Escherichia, etc. (EP0857784, 0999267, 1170358, JP11-192088A, WO00/ 53726, WO96/17930, WO03/04674). Wild-type microorganisms, artificial mutants of said bacterial strains, and microorganisms which have been modified so that the activities of the L-amino acid biosynthesis enzymes are enhanced by recombinant DNA techniques are typically used for L-amino acid 40 production.

Known methods for enhancing the ability of various strains to produce an L-amino acid include modifying the L-amino acid uptake or export. For example, to modify the uptake, the ability to produce L-amino acids is enhanced by deleting or 45 reducing the L-amino acid uptake into the cell. For example, one approach is to delete or lower L-glutamic acid uptake by deleting the gluABCD operon or a part of the operon (EP1038970), etc.

One of the methods for modifying the export of an L-amino 50 acid is to delete or reduce the export of an L-amino acid biosynthetic intermediate, and another method is to strengthen the L-amino acid export. For the former, if the target amino acid is L-glutamic acid, reducing the export of α-ketoglutarate, which is an intermediate in the biosynthesis 55 of L-glutamic acid, by mutating or disrupting the α -ketoglutarate permease gene has been reported (WO01/005959).

To delete or reduce the export of an L-amino acid biosynthetic intermediate, methods for overexpressing genes responsible for L-amino acid export have been reported, for 60 example, producing L-lysine (WO97/23597) or L-arginine using a bacterial strain of a microorganism of the genus Corynebacterium with enhanced expression of the L-lysine or L-arginine export gene (LysE) (Journal of Molecular Microbiology Biotechnology (J Mol Microbiol Biotechnol) 65 1999 November; 1(2):327-36). Furthermore, increasing the expression of the rhtA, B, and C genes (U.S. Pat. No. 6,303,

348), or the yfiK, yahN genes, etc. has been reported as a method for producing L-amino acids in an Escherichia bacteria (EP 1013765).

Aside from modifying the L-amino acid biosynthesis pathway and modifying the uptake and export of the L-amino acid as described above, modifying the ability of the bacteria to take up sugar is another example of a method for improving L-amino acid production. For example, the phosphoenolpyruvate:carbohydrate phosphotransferase system (hereinafter, also referred to as PTS: phosphotransferase) is widely known as a transporter which functions to uptake sugar. Furthermore, PTS is classified as a substrate-independent common system EI (encoded by ptsI), HPr (encoded by ptsH), or substrate-specific component EII. Glucose-specific is also hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety (File 15 EII is encoded by ptsG and crr, with the crr gene being a part of an operon with ptsH and ptsI. One known method for producing an L-amino acid uses the genus Escherichia in which the ptsG gene has been enhanced (WO03/04670), and another method uses the genus *Escherichia* in which the ptsH, 20 ptsI, and crr genes have been enhanced (WO03/04674).

> Aside from the glucose PTS mentioned above, the bglF gene is known to encode β-glucoside specific phosphotransferase (PTS) (Journal of Bacteriology, 1999, Vol. 18, No. 2, p 462-468, Biochemistry, 1998, Vol. 37, p 17040-17047, Biochemistry, 1998, Vol. 37, p 8714-8723), but the use of a gene encoding PTS other than glucose PTS for the production of an L-amino acid has not been reported.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An aspect of the present invention is to provide a bacterial strain which is capable of efficiently producing an L-amino acid and to also provide a method for producing an L-amino acid using said bacterial strain.

In order to resolve the above-mentioned problem, it has been discovered that an L-amino acid can be effectively produced using a microorganism belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae which has been modified to increase β-glucoside PTS activity. That is, the present invention is as follows:

It is an aspect of the present invention to provide a method for producing an L-amino acid comprising culturing in a medium a microorganism of the Enterobacteriaceae family which has an ability to produce an L-amino acid and which has been modified to enhance β-glucoside PTS activity as compared to a non-modified microorganism, and collecting the L-amino acid from the medium or cells.

It is an aspect of the present invention to provide the method described above, wherein said β-glucoside PTS activity is enhanced by increasing expression of the bglF gene by a method selected from the group consisting of A) increasing the copy number of the gene, B) modifying an expression regulatory sequence of the gene, and C) combinations thereof.

It is an aspect of the present invention to provide the method described above, wherein said bglF gene is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 5,

(b) a DNA encoding a protein having β-glucoside PTS activity which hybridizes with: i) a sequence complementary to nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 5, or ii) a probe prepared from said nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions.

It is an aspect of the present invention to provide the method as described above, wherein the bglF gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of: A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, and B)

a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, but which includes one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions, additions, or inversions and has β -glucoside PTS activity.

It is an aspect of the present invention to provide the method described above, wherein the microorganism is a bacterium of the genus *Escherichia* or genus *Pantoea*.

It is an aspect of the present invention to provide a method described above, wherein said L-amino acid is selected from a group consisting of L-lysine, L-threonine, L-glutamic acid, 10 and combinations thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows the construction of the plasmid pMW118- 15 attL-Tc-attR.

FIG. 2 shows the construction of the plasmid pMW118-attL-Cm-attR.

FIG. 3 shows the construction of the plasmid pMW-intxists.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, the present invention will be explained in 25 tion's catalogue. Examples of 1

<1> The Microorganism of the Present Invention

The microorganism of the present invention is of the Enterobacteriaceae family and has an ability to produce an L-amino acid. This microorganism also has been modified to 30 enhance the β -glucoside PTS activity. The phrase "an ability to produce an L-amino acid" means the ability to produce and cause accumulation of an L-amino acid in a medium or in the cells of the microorganism when the microorganism of the present invention is cultured in the medium. The microorganism of the present invention may have the ability to produce multiple L-amino acids. The microorganism may inherently possesses the ability to produce an L-amino acid, or may be modified by mutagenesis or recombinant DNA techniques to impart the ability to produce an L-amino acid, such as those 40 described below.

The type of L-amino acid is not particularly limited. Examples of the L-amino acid include the basic L-amino acids such as L-lysine, L-ornithine, L-arginine, L-histidine, and L-citrulline; the aliphatic L-amino acids such as L-iso-leucine, L-alanine, L-valine, L-leucine, and L-glycine; the hydroxyl L-amino acids such as L-threonine and L-serine; the cyclic L-amino acids such as L-proline; the aromatic L-amino acids such as L-phenylalanine, L-tyrosine, and L-tryptophan; the sulfur-containing L-amino acids such as L-cysteine, 50 L-cystine, and L-methionine; and the acidic L-amino acid such as L-glutamic acid, L-aspartic acid; the amides of acidic L-amino acid such as L-glutamine, L-asparagine, etc. The microorganism of the present invention may have the ability to produce two or more amino acids.

<1-1> Imparting L-Amino Acid-Producing Ability

The following examples include a description of the method for imparting L-amino acid-producing ability, along with examples of microorganisms imparted with L-amino acid-producing ability which can be used in the present invention. The microorganisms of the present invention are not limited to these, but can be any as long as they have L-amino acid-producing ability.

There is no particular limitation on the microorganism used in the present invention, as long as it belongs to the 65 family Enterobacteriaceae, such as the genera *Escherichia*, *Enterobacter, Pantoea, Klebsiella, Serratia, Erwinia, Salmo-*

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nella, Morganella, etc., and it has an L-amino acid-producing ability. Specifically, any microorganism belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae as classified in the NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information) database may be used.

It is particularly desirable to use bacteria which belong to the genera *Escherichia, Enterobacter*, or *Pantoea* when modifying parent bacterial species.

The parent bacterial strain of the genus *Escherichia* used to obtain the bacteria of the present invention is not particularly limited, but strains listed by Neidhardt et al., may be used (Neidhardt, F. C. et al., *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella Typhimurium*, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C., 1029 table 1). One example is *Escherichia coli*. Specific examples of *Escherichia coli* are *Escherichia coli* W3110 (ATCC 27325), *Escherichia coli* MG1655 (ATCC 47076), etc., which are prototypes derived from wild-type strains of K12.

These are available, for example, from the American Type Culture Collection (address: P.O. Box 1549 Manassas, Va. 20108, USA). They are available via use of the accession number given to each bacterial strain (see http://www.atc-c.org). The accession numbers correspond to each bacterial strain, and are listed in the American Type Culture Collection's catalogue.

Examples of bacteria of the genus *Enterobacter* include Enterobacter agglomerans and Enterobacter aerogenes. An example of a bacterium of the genus *Pantoea* is *Pantoea* ananatis. In recent years, based on 16S rRNA nucleotide sequence analysis, *Enterobacter agglomerans* has on occasion been reclassified as Pantoea agglomerans, Pantoea ananatis, and Pantoea stewartii. For the present invention, any bacterium classified in the family Enterobacteriaceae, whether Enterobacter or Pantoea, may be employed. The strains *Pantoea ananatis* AJ13355 (FERM BP-6614), AJ13356 (FERM BP-6615), AJ13601 (FERM BP-7207), or any derivative thereof may be employed to breed Pantoea ananatis by genetic engineering methods. When isolated, these strains were identified and deposited as *Enterobacter* agglomerans. As stated above, by analysis using the 16S rRNA nucleotide sequence, these bacteria have been reclassified as *Pantoea ananatis*. For the present invention, any bacterium belonging to the genus Enterobacter or Pantoea may be used as long as the bacterium is classified in the family Enterobacteriaceae.

The following is a description of methods for imparting an L-amino acid-producing ability to a microorganism which belongs to the Enterobacteriaceae family.

To impart the ability to produce an L-amino acid, an auxotrophic mutant, an analog-resistant strain, or a metabolic regulation mutant can be obtained, or a recombinant strain having enhanced expression of an L-amino acid biosynthesis enzyme can be created. Methods conventionally employed in the breeding of coryneform bacteria or bacteria of the genus 55 Escherichia (see "Amino Acid Fermentation", Gakkai Shuppan Center (Ltd.), 1st Edition, published May 30, 1986, pp. 77-100) can also be utilized. Here, in the breeding of an L-amino acid-producing bacteria, one or more properties, such as auxotrophic mutation, analog resistance, or metabolic regulation mutation may be imparted. Enhancing the expression of one or more L-amino acid biosynthesis enzymes may also be employed. Furthermore, imparting properties such as auxotrophic mutation, analog resistance, or metabolic regulation mutation may be performed in combination with enhancing the activity of biosynthesis enzymes.

An auxotrophic mutant strain, L-amino acid analog-resistant strain, or metabolic regulation mutant strain with the

ability to produce an L-amino acid can be obtained by subjecting a parent or wild-type strain to a conventional mutation treatment, such as treating with X-rays or UV radiation, or treating with a mutagenic agent such as N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine, etc., then selecting those which exhibit an autotrophic mutation, analog resistance, or metabolic regulation mutation and which also have the ability to produce an L-amino acid.

Examples of an L-lysine analog-resistant strain or metabolic regulation mutant include, but are not limited to, the 10 Escherichia coli AJ11442 strain (FERM BP-1543, NRRL B-12185, JP56-18596A, and U.S. Pat. No. 4,346,170), and the Escherichia coli VL611 strain (EP1016710A), etc. The Escherichia coli WC196 strain (WO96/17930) also produces L-lysine. The WC196 strain was bred by imparting AEC 15 (S-(2-aminoethyl)-cysteine) resistance to the W3110 strain derived from *Escherichia coli* K-12. This strain was named Escherichia coli AJ13069, and was deposited on Dec. 6, 1994 with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology of the Agency of Industrial Science and Technology 20 (currently, International Patent Organism Depositary, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; Chuo 6, 1-1, Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibarakiken 305-8566, Japan) under Accession No. FERM P-14690 and converted to an international deposit under the Budapest 25 Treaty on Sep. 29, 1995, and given Accession No. FERM BP-5252.

L-lysine-producing bacteria can also be constructed by increasing the L-lysine biosynthetic enzyme activity. Examples of genes encoding L-lysine biosynthesis enzymes 30 are the dihydrodipicolinate synthase gene (dapA) (EP 0733710B), aspartokinase gene (lysC) (EP 0733710, U.S. Pat. No. 5,932,453), dihydrodipicolinate reductase gene (dapB), diaminopimelate decarbonylase gene (lysA), diaminopimelate dehydrogenase gene (ddh) (WO96/40934), the 35 phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase gene (ppc) (JP60-87788A), the aspartate aminotransferase gene (aspC) (JP6-102028A), the diaminopimelate epimerase gene (dapF) (WO00/56858), the aspartate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase gene (asd) (WO00/61723), and other genes of diaminopimelate pathway enzymes; as well as the homoaconitate hydratase gene (JP2000-157276) and other genes of aminoadipate pathway enzymes. The abbreviations for these genes are given in the parentheses following each name.

Furthermore, it is known that the activities of wild-type 45 dihydrodipicolinate synthase (DDPS) and aspartokinase (AK) are inhibited by feedback by L-lysine; therefore, when dapA and lysC are used, it is preferable to use genes encoding mutant dihydrodipicolinate synthase and aspartokinase, respectively, that are resistant to the feedback inhibition by 50 L-lysine (EP 0733710, U.S. Pat. No. 5,932,453).

Examples of the DNA encoding mutant dihydrodipicolinate synthase that is resistant to feedback inhibition by L-lysine include a DNA encoding DDPS having an amino acid sequence wherein the 118th histidine residue is substituted with tyrosine. (U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,661,012 and 6,040,160). Furthermore, examples of the DNA encoding a mutant AK that is resistant to feedback inhibition by L-lysine include a DNA encoding AK having the amino acid sequence wherein the 352-threonine residue is substituted with isoleucine. (U.S. 60 Pat. Nos. 5,661,012 and 6,040,160). These mutant DNAs can be obtained by site-directed mutagenesis using PCR, or the like.

The following is an example of imparting an L-lysine-producing ability by introducing a gene encoding an L-lysine 65 biosynthesis enzyme into the host. That is, recombinant DNA is prepared by ligating the gene fragment that encodes the

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L-lysine biosynthesis gene with a vector that functions in the host microorganism used in the production of L-lysine, preferably a multi-copy type vector, and this is used to transform the host. By the transformation, the copy number of the gene encoding the L-lysine biosynthesis enzyme in the host cell increases, enhancing the expression and consequently increasing the enzymatic activity.

The genes encoding the L-lysine biosynthesis enzymes are not particularly limited, as long as they can be expressed in the host microorganism. Examples include genes derived from *Escherichia coli*, and genes derived from coryneform bacteria. Because the total genome sequences of *Escherichia coli* and *Corynebacterium glutamicum* have been determined, it is possible to synthesize primers based on the nucleotide sequence of these genes and obtain these genes using the PCR method in which the chromosomal DNA of a microorganism, such as *Escherichia coli* K12, etc., is used as the template.

In order to clone these genes, plasmids that autonomously replicate in the Enterobacteriaceae can be used. Examples include pBR322, pTWV228 (Takara Bio Inc.), pMW119 (Nippon Gene Co., Ltd.), pUC19, pSTV29 (Takara Bio Inc.), RSF110 (Gene vol. 75 (2), pp. 271-288, 1989), etc. In addition, a vector of phage DNA may also be used.

To ligate the target gene to the above-mentioned vector, the vector is digested with a restriction enzyme matched to the end of the DNA fragment containing the target gene. The ligation is usually conducted with a ligase such as T4 DNA ligase. Target genes may be present on separate vectors, respectively, or present on the same vector. Typical methods known to those skilled in the art can be employed for digesting and ligating the DNA, as well as for preparing chromosomal DNA, performing PCR, preparing plasmid DNA, transformation, determining the oligonucleotides for use as primers, etc. These methods are described in Sambrook, J., and Russell, D. W. Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual/ Third Edition. New York: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (2001), etc. Any method which achieves adequate transformation efficiency may be employed to introduce recombinant DNA that has been prepared as described above into the microorganism. An example includes electroporation (Canadian Journal of Microbiology, 43, 197 (1997)). An example of a plasmid prepared using electroporation is pCABD2, which contains the dapA, dapB, and LysC genes (WO 01/53459).

Enhancing the expression of genes encoding L-lysine biosynthesis enzymes can also be achieved by introducing multiple copies of the target gene into the chromosomal DNA of a microorganism. Multiple copies of the target gene can be introduced into the chromosomal DNA of the microorganism by using a sequence in which multiple copies are present on the chromosomal DNA as a target in homologous recombination. Such site-specific introduction of mutations based on gene substitution using homologous recombination has been described. Methods employing linear DNA or a plasmid containing a temperature-sensitive replication origin have been described (U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,303,383 and 5,616,480). Repetitive DNA and inverted repeats present on the ends of transposable elements can be employed as sequences in which multiple copies are present on chromosomal DNA. An L-lysine biosynthesis gene may be ligated in tandem with a gene which is inherently present on the chromosome, or it may be introduced into a non-essential region on the chromosome or a region of the gene in which the L-lysine yield will be improved if deleted.

Furthermore, as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,595,889, the target gene may also be located on a transposon, which is then transferred to introduce multiple copies into the chromo-

somal DNA. With either method, the number of copies of the target gene in the transformant increases, so that the enzymatic activity of the L-lysine biosynthesis increases.

In addition to the above-described genetic amplification, an increase in the L-lysine biosynthesis enzyme activity can be achieved by replacing an expression regulatory sequence of the target gene, such as a promoter etc., with a stronger one (see JP1-215280A). For example, the lac promoter, trp promoter, trc promoter, tac promoter, lambda phage PR promoter, PL promoter, and tet promoter are all known as strong promoters. Substitution with these promoters increases expression of the target gene, thus enhancing enzymatic activity. Examples of strong promoters and methods for evaluating the strength of promoters are described in an article by Goldstein et al. (Prokaryotic promoters in biotechnology. Biotechnol. Annu. Rev., 1995, 1, 105-128), etc.

Increasing L-lysine biosynthesis enzyme activity can also be achieved by modifying an element involved in the regulation of the target gene expression, for example, the operator or 20 repressor (Hamilton et al.; J. Bacteriol. 1989 September; 171 (9):4617-22). As disclosed in WO 00/18935, a substitution of several bases may be introduced into the -35, -10 region of the promoter of a target gene to modify and strengthen it. Furthermore, substituting several nucleotides into the spacer 25 region between the ribosome binding site (RBS) and the start codon, particularly into the sequence immediately upstream of the start codon, is known to have a strong effect on the mRNA translation efficiency. The expression regulatory regions of the target gene's promoter, etc., can be determined 30 by promoter probe vectors and gene analysis software such as GENETYX, etc. Substitution of expression regulatory sequences can be conducted, for example, in the same manner as in the above-described gene substitution employing temperature-sensitive plasmids. The Red-driven integration 35 method (WO2005/010175) may also used.

Furthermore, in the L-lysine-producing bacteria of the present invention, the activity of an enzyme catalyzing production of a compound other than an L-lysine which branches off from its biosynthesis pathway, or the activity of an enzyme 40 which has a negative effect on the production of L-lysine may be reduced or deleted. These enzymes include homoserine dehydrogenase (thrA), lysine decarboxylase (cadA, lysC), and malic enzyme (sfcA, b2463). The strains with reduced or deficient enzymatic activity are described in WO 95/23864, 45 WO96/17930, WO2005/010175, etc.

To reduce or delete said enzyme activity in a cell, mutagenesis may be performed on the gene which encodes the abovementioned enzymes, using typical and known methods. This can be achieved, for example, by deleting the gene that 50 encodes the enzyme on the chromosome using genetic recombination, or by modifying the expression regulatory sequence of a promoter or a Shine-Delgarno (SD) sequence, etc. This can also be achieved by introducing an amino acid substitution (missense mutation) or stop codon (nonsense 55 mutation) in the region encoding the enzyme on the chromosome, by introducing a frameshift mutation to add or delete 1-2 bases, or by deleting a part of the gene or the entire region (Journal of Biological Chemistry 272:8611-8617 (1997); Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy 200 46, 793-796; 60 Biotechnol Prog 1999, 15, 58-64; J. Biological Chemistry vol 272 NO. 13 pp 8611-8617). Also, the enzyme activity can be reduced or deleted by constructing a gene that encodes the mutant enzyme in which the encoded region has been deleted and then substituting the wild-type gene on the chromosome 65 with this, by homologous recombination, etc., or introducing a transposon or IS element into said gene.

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The following methods may be used to introduce a mutation which reduces or deletes the above-mentioned enzyme activity by genetic recombination. An isolated DNA containing the target gene is mutated so that the resulting mutant gene does not produce an enzyme that functions normally. Then, transforming this into a microorganism which belongs to the family Enterobacteriaceae using the DNA containing the gene, and generating the recombination of the mutant-type gene with a gene on the chromosome. For gene substitution using this kind of homologous recombination, there are methods which employ linear DNA, such as the method called "Red-driven integration" (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 2000, vol. 97, No. 12, pp. 6640-6645), or by combining the Reddriven integration method and the λ phage excisive system (J. Bacteriol. 2002 September; 184 (18): 5200-3, Interactions between integrase and excisionase in the phage lambda excisive nucleoprotein complex. Cho E H, Gumport R I, Gardner JF) (see WO2005/010175), etc.; and there are methods which employ a plasmid containing a temperature-sensitive replication origin (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 2000, vol. 97, No. 12, pp. 6640-6645, U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,303,383, or 5,616,480). Such site-specific introduction of mutations via gene substitution using homologous recombination as described above may also be performed using a plasmid which does not have replication ability in the host.

The above-mentioned method for increasing the enzyme activity involving L-lysine biosynthesis and the method for lowering the enzyme activity may likewise be used in breeding other L-amino acid-producing bacteria. The following is a description of methods for breeding other L-amino acid bacteria.

As the L-glutamic acid-producing bacteria used in the present invention, there is, for example, a microorganism which belongs to the family Enterobacteriaceae which has been modified to increase the expression of a gene encoding an enzyme that is involved in L-glutamic acid biosynthesis. The enzymes involved in L-glutamic acid biosynthesis include glutamate dehydrogenase (gdh), glutamine synthetase (gltAB), glutamate synthase (glnA), isocitrate dehydrogenase (icd), aconitate hydratase (acn), citrate synthase (gltA), phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (ppc), pyruvate carboxylase (pycA), pyruvate dehydrogenase (pdhA), pyruvate kinase (pykA), phosphoenolpyruvate synthase (pps), enolase (eno), phosphoglucomutase (pgm), phosphoglycerate kinase (pgk), glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (gpd), triose phosphate isomerase (tpi), fructose-bisphosphate aldolase (fba), phosphofructokinase glucosephosphate isomerase (gpi), etc. Of these enzymes, citrate synthase, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase, glutamate dehydrogenase, and combinations thereof are preferable, and the use of all three is more preferable.

Examples of microorganisms belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae which have been modified to enhance the expression of the citrate synthase gene, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase gene, and/or glutamate dehydrogenase gene using the methods described above are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,197,559 & 6,331,419, EP0999282, and WO2006/051660.

Furthermore, microorganisms belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae which have been modified to increase the activity of either 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase or 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase, or both, may also be used. (EP1352966B)

The microorganisms of the family Enterobacteriaceae having the ability to produce an L-glutamic acid which may be used include a bacterium in which the activity of an enzyme that catalyzes production of a compound other than

L-glutamic acid, but which branches off from the biosynthesis pathway of L-glutamic acid, has been reduced or lowered. Examples of such enzymes include 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase (sucA), isocitrate lyase (aceA), acetohydroxy acid synthase (ilvG), acetolactate synthase (ilvN), formate acetyltransferase (pflB), lactate dehydrogenase (ldh), glutamate decarboxylase (gadA), and 1-pyrroline dehydrogenase (putA), etc. Of these, it is especially preferable to reduce or delete the activity of 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase.

Methods for deleting or reducing the activity of 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase in a microorganism belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,573,945, 6,197,559, and 6,331,419. Examples of microorganisms belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae wherein the activity of 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase has been deleted or reduced include the following:

Pantoea ananatis AJ13601 (FERM BP-7207) Klebsiella planticola AJ13410 strain (FERM BP-6617)

Escherichia coli AJ12949 (FERM BP-4881), and others.

The AJ12949 strain has reduced α-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase activity, and was deposited on Dec. 28, 1993 with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology of the Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (currently, International Patent Organism Depositary, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; Chuo 6, 1-1, Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken 305-8566, Japan) under Accession No. FERM P-14039 and converted to an international deposit under the Budapest Treaty on Nov. 11, 1994, and given Accession No. FERM BP-4881.

The L-tryptophan-producing bacteria preferably used in the present invention are bacteria in which the activity of one or more of the following enzymes, i.e., anthranilate synthase (trpE), phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase (serA), or tryptophan synthase (trpAB) has been enhanced. Since anthranilate synthase and phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase both are subject to feedback inhibition by L-tryptophan and L-serine, the activities of these enzymes can be increased by retaining the desensitizing mutant enzyme (U.S. Pat. Nos. 40 5,618,716, 6,180,373). For instance, it is possible to obtain bacteria which have a desensitizing enzyme by mutating the anthranilate synthase gene (trpE) and/or the phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase gene (serA) to prevent feedback inhibition, then introducing the mutant gene into a microorganism 45 belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae. A specific example of this kind of bacteria is Escherichia coli SV164 which retains desensitized anthranilate synthase and which has been transformed with plasmid pGH5 having a mutated serA that encodes desensitized phosphoglycerate dehydroge- 50 nase (WO94/08301).

Bacteria transformed with recombinant DNA containing a tryptophan operon are also preferable L-tryptophan-producing bacteria. A specific example is *Escherichia coli* transformed with a tryptophan operon containing a gene encoding desensitized anthranilate synthase (trpAB) (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 57-71397, Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 62-244382, U.S. Pat. No. 4,371,614). Furthermore, in the tryptophan operon, it is possible to enhance the ability to produce L-tryptophan by increasing the expression of the gene (trpBA) encoding tryptophan synthase. Tryptophan synthase contains α and β subunits that are encoded by trpA and trpB, respectively (WO2005/103275).

Examples of L-tryptophan-producing bacteria are *Escheri- 65 chia coli* AGX17 (pGX44) [NRRL B-12263], which requires L-phenylalanine and L-tyrosine for growth, and AGX6

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(pGX50) aroP [NRRL B-12264], which retains plasmid pGX50 containing a tryptophan operon (see U.S. Pat. No. 4,371,614).

A strain with a deficient tryptophan operon repressor (trpR), and a strain with a mutant trpT are also desirable L-tryptophan-producing bacteria. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,371,614 WO2005/056776).

Another preferable L-tryptophan-producing bacterium is the bacterium in which malate synthase (aceB), isocitrate lyase (aceA), and the isocitrate dehydrogenase/phosphatase (icl) operon (ace operon) are structurally expressed, or the expression of said operon has been enhanced (WO2005/103275).

L-tryptophan, L-phenylalanine, and L-tyrosine are all aromatic amino acids and share a biosynthesis system. Examples of genes encoding biosynthesis enzymes of aromatic amino acids include deoxyarabino-heptulosonate phosphate synthase (aroG), 3-dehydroquinate synthase (aroB), shikimate dehydratase, shikimate kinase (aroL), 5-enolpyruvylshikimate[-]3-phosphate synthase (aroA), and chorismate synthase (aroC) (European Patent Application Publication No. 763127). Therefore, by placing multiple copies of the genes encoding these enzymes onto a plasmid or genome, the aromatic amino acid-producing ability can be improved. It is known that these genes are controlled by a tyrosine repressor (tyrR), so the biosynthesis enzyme activity of an aromatic amino acid may also be increased by deleting the tyrR gene (EP763127).

The L-threonine-producing bacteria are preferably micro-30 organisms belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae wherein the L-threonine biosynthesis enzymes have been enhanced. Examples of genes encoding L-threonine biosynthesis enzymes include the aspartokinase III gene (lysC), the aspartate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase gene (asd), the aspar-35 tokinase I gene encoding the thr operon (thrA), the homoserine kinase gene (thrB), and the threonine synthase gene (thrC). The abbreviations for these genes are given in parentheses following their names. One or more of these genes may be introduced. The L-threonine biosynthesis gene may be introduced into a bacterium of the genus Escherichia wherein threonine degradation has been suppressed. Examples of bacteria of the genus *Escherichia* wherein threonine degradation has been suppressed include the TDH6 strain wherein the threonine dehydrogenase activity has been deleted (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-346578), and so forth.

Activities of some of the L-threonine biosynthesis enzymes are suppressed by the L-threonine that is produced. Therefore, in order to construct an L-threonine-producing bacterium, it is preferable to modify the L-threonine biosynthesis enzyme so that the enzyme is not subject to feedback inhibition by L-threonine. The above-mentioned thrA, thrB, and thrC genes make up the threonine operon, which is in the form of an attenuator structure. The expression of the threonine operon is subject to inhibition by isoleucine and threonine present in the culture, and the expression is attenuated. This modification of the threonine operon can be achieved by removing the leader sequence in the attenuation region or the attenuator. (WO 02/26993; Biotechnology Letters Vol. 24, No. 21, November 2002; WO2005/049808).

A native promoter is located on the threonine operon, and may be substituted with a non-native promoter (WO 98/04715). Alternatively, a threonine operon may be constructed so that the expression of the gene involved in threonine biosynthesis is controlled by a lambda phage repressor and promoter. (EP0593792). Also, to prevent feedback inhibition by L-threonine, modification of the bacteria of the

genus *Escherichia* can also be obtained by selecting an α -amino- β -hydroxyvaleric acid (AHV) resistant bacterial strain (JP45026708B).

It is preferred that the copy number of the threonine operon which is modified to prevent feedback inhibition by L-threonine is increased in the host or is ligated to a strong promoter. In addition to amplifying the copy number of the gene using a plasmid, the copy number of the gene can be increased by introducing the threonine operon onto the chromosome using a transposon, Mu-phage, etc.

For the aspartokinase III gene (lysC), it is desirable to use a gene modified to prevent feedback inhibition by L-lysine. A lysC gene which has been modified to prevent feedback inhibition can be obtained using the method described in the U.S. Pat. No. 5,932,453.

Aside from the L-threonine biosynthesis enzyme, it is desirable to strengthen genes involved in the glycolytic system, TCA cycle, and respiratory chain, a gene which controls gene expression, and a gene which induces uptake of sugar. 20 Examples of these genes which are effective in L-threonine production include the transhydrogenase gene (pntAB) (EP733712), phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase gene (ppc) (WO 95/06114), the phosphoenolpyruvate synthase gene (pps) (EP 877090), and the pyruvate carboxylase gene in the 25 coryneform bacteria or *Bacillus* bacteria (WO99/18228, EP1092776).

It is also preferable to enhance the expression of a gene that imparts resistance to L-threonine and a gene that imparts resistance to L-homoserine, or to impart both L-threonine 30 resistance and L-homoserine resistance to the host. Examples of such genes are the rhtA gene (Res Microbiol. 2003 March; 154 (2): 123-35), the rhtB gene (EP0994190), the rhtC gene (EP1013765), the yfiK gene, and the yeaS gene (EP1016710). To impart L-threonine resistance to a host, refer to European 35 Patent Application Publication No. 0994190 and WO 90/04636.

Another example of an L-threonine-producing bacterium is the *Escherichia coli* VKPM B-3996 strain (U.S. Pat. No. 5,175,107). This VKPM B-3996 strain was deposited on Nov. 40 19, 1987, under Accession No. VKPM B-3996, at the Russian National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (VKPM), GNII Genetika. In addition, the VKPM B-3996 strain retains plasmid pVIC40 (WO90/04636) obtained by inserting a threonine biosynthesis gene (threonine operon: thrABC) into 45 a wide-host vector plasmid pAY32 including a streptomycin-resistant marker (Chistorerdov, A. Y., Tsygankov, Y. D., Plasmid, 1986, 16, 161-167). In this pVIC40, the feedback inhibition by the L-threonine of the aspartokinase I-homeserine dehydrogenase I that the thrA in the threonine operon encodes 50 has been desensitized.

A further example is the *Escherichia coli* B-5318 strain (see European Patent No. 0593792). The B-5318 strain was deposited under Accession No. VKPM B-5318 at the Russian National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (VKPM), 55 GNII Genetika (Russia, 117545 Moscow, 1 Dorozhny Proezd, 1) on May 3, 1990. This VKPM B-5318 strain is an isoleucine non-auxotrophic strain, and retains recombinant plasmid DNA constructed in such a way that the gene involved in threonine biosynthesis, i.e., the threonine operon 60 wherein the attenuator region and the native transcriptional regulatory region has been deleted, is located downstream of the lambda phage temperature-sensitive CI repressor, PR promoter, and the N-terminus of Cro protein of lambda phage, and expression of the gene involved in the threonine biosyn- 65 thesis is controlled by the lambda phage repressor and promoter.

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Examples of preferred L-histidine-producing strains include the *Escherichia coli* FERM P-5038 and 5048 strains harboring vectors in which genetic information involved in L-histidine biosynthesis have been incorporated (JP56-005099A), a bacterial strain into which the amino acid export gene Rht has been introduced (EP1016710), and the *Escherichia coli* 80 strain which has resistance to sulfaguanidine, D, L-1,2,4-triazole-3-alanine, and streptomycin (VKPM B-7270, Russian Patent Publication No. 2119536), etc.

Microorganisms in which expression of the gene encoding the L-histidine biosynthesis pathway enzyme may be used to produce L-histidine. Examples of L-histidine biosynthesis enzymes are ATP phosphoribosyltransferase (hisG), phosphoribosyl AMP cyclohydrolase (hisl), phosphoribosyl-ATP pyrophosphohydrolase (hisIE), phosphoribosylformimino-5-aminoimidazole carboxamide ribotide Isomerase (hisA), amidotransferase (hisH), histidinol phosphate aminotransferase gene (hisC), histidinol phosphatase gene (hisB), and histidinol dehydrogenase gene (hisD), etc.

The preferred L-cysteine-producing bacteria of the present invention are bacteria in which the activity of the cystathion-ine β -lyase has been reduced (JP2003-169668), and bacteria of the genus *Escherichia* that retain serine acetyltransferase with reduced feedback inhibition by L-cysteine (JP11-155571).

The preferred L-proline-producing bacteria of the present invention include *Escherichia coli* 702 (VKPMB-8011) which is resistant to 3,4-dehydroxyproline and azetidine-2-carboxylate, and 702 ilvA (VKPMB-8012 strain), which is deficient in ilvA, and is derived from 702 (JP 2002-300874A).

Examples of L-phenylalanine-producing bacteria include AJ12739 (tyrA::Tn10, tyrR) (VKPM B-8197) which is deficient in tyrA and tyrR, and strains with amplified genes encoding phenylalanine export proteins, such as yddG and yedA.

Examples of L-arginine-producing bacteria include Escherichia coli mutant strains which are resistant to α -methylmethionine, p-fluorophenylalanine, D-arginine, arginine hydroxamic acid, S-(2-aminoethyl)-cysteine, α-methyleserine, β-2-thienylalanine, or sulfaguanidine (JP56-106598), etc. The *Escherichia coli* 237 strain is an L-arginineproducing bacterium that has a mutant which is resistant to feedback inhibition by L-arginine and that retains highly active N-acetyl glutamate synthase, and it is also a preferable L-arginine-producing strain. (EP1170361B). This strain, numbered VKPM B-7925, was deposited with the Russian National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (VKPM), GNII Genetika on Apr. 10, 2000, and converted to an international deposit under the Budapest Treaty on May 18, 2001. The Escherichia coli 382 strain, which is a derivative of the 237 strain and is an L-arginine-producing bacterium with improved acetic acid assimilating ability, may also be used (U.S. Pat. No. 6,841,365). The Escherichia coli 382 strain, numbered VKPM B-7926, was deposited with the Russian National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (VKPM) on Apr. 10, 2000.

Also, as the microorganisms having L-arginine-producing ability, microorganisms with improved expression of genes encoding enzymes involved in L-arginine biosynthesis may be used. Examples of L-arginine biosynthesis enzymes include N-acetyl glutamate synthase (argA), N-acetyl-glutamyl-phosphate reductase (argC), ornithine acetyltransferase (argJ), N-acetyl glutamate kinase (argB), acetyl ornithine transaminase (argD), acetyl ornithine deacetylase (argE), ornithine carbamoyl transferase (argF), argininosuccinate synthase (argG), argininosuccinate lyase (argH), car-

bamoyl phosphate synthase (carAB), and combinations thereof. After each enzyme name, the name of the gene encoding it is given in parentheses. It is desirable to employ a mutation of the N-acetyl glutamate synthase gene (argA) in which L-arginine feedback inhibition has been removed by 5 substitution of the amino acid sequence corresponding to positions 15 to 19 in the wild-type (EP EP1170361).

The L-leucine-producing bacteria which may be used include a bacterium of the genus Escherichia coli in which the branched-chain amino-acid transaminase encoded by the ilvE gene has been inactivated and the activity of the aromatic amino acid transaminase encoded by the tyrB gene has been enhanced (EP1375655A), the Escherichia coli H-9068 strain (ATCC21530) which is resistant to 4-azaleucine or 5,5,5trifluoroleucine, the *Escherichia coli* H-9070 strain (FERM 15 BP-4704), the *Escherichia coli* H-9072 strain (FERM BP-4706) (U.S. Pat. No. 5,744,331), the *Escherichia coli* strain in which the isopropylmalate synthase feedback inhibition by L-leucine has been desensitized (European Patent No. 1067191), the *Escherichia coli* AJ11478 strain which is 20 resistant to β -2 thienylalanine and β -hydroxyleucine (U.S. Pat. No. 5,763,231), and so on.

L-isoleucine-producing bacteria include a 6-dimethyl aminopurine-resistant *Escherichia coli* mutant strain (JP 5-304969A), L-isoleucine hydroxamate-resistant *Escheri*- 25 chia coli mutant strain (JP5-130882A), thiaisoleucine-resistant Escherichia coli mutant strain (JP5-130882A), DL-ethionine-resistant *Escherichia coli* mutant strain (JP5-130882A), and arginine hydroxamate-resistant mutant strain (JP5-130882A), all of which have L-isoleucine-producing 30 ability. Examples of recombinant bacteria of the genus Escherichia are bacterial strains in which the expression of the genes encoding the L-isoleucine biosynthesis enzymes threonine deaminase or acetohydroxy acid synthase have

Examples of parent strains for deriving L-valine-producing bacteria of the present invention include, but are not limited to, strains which have been modified to overexpress the ilvGMEDA operon (U.S. Pat. No. 5,998,178). It is desirable to remove the region in the ilvGMEDA operon which is 40 required for attenuation so that expression of the operon is not attenuated by L-valine. Furthermore, the ilvA gene in the operon is desirably disrupted to decrease threonine deaminase activity.

Examples of parent strains for deriving L-valine-produc- 45 ing bacteria of the present invention include mutants having a mutation in the amino-acyl t-RNA synthetase (U.S. Pat. No. 5,658,766). For example, *E. coli* VL1970, which has a mutation in the ileS gene encoding isoleucine tRNA synthetase, can be used. E. coli VL1970 has been deposited in the Russian 50 National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (VKPM) (Russia, 113545 Moscow, 1 Dorozhny Proezd, 1) on Jun. 24, 1988 under accession number VKPM B-4411.

Furthermore, mutants requiring lipoic acid for growth and/ or lacking H+-ATPase can also be used as parent strains 55 (WO96/06926).

Aside from a gene which encodes a native biosynthesis enzyme, a gene which is involved in sugar uptake, sugar metabolism (glycolytic system), and energy metabolism may be enhanced in the L-amino acid-producing bacteria of the 60 present invention.

Examples of the genes involved in sugar metabolism are genes which encode glycolytic enzymes or proteins which uptake sugar, such as genes encoding the glucose-6-phosphate isomerase gene (pgi; WO01/02542), the phospho- 65 enolpyruvate synthase gene (pps), the phosphoglucomutase gene (pgm; WO03/04598), the fructose-bisphosphate aldo14

lase gene (fba; WO03/04664), the pyruvate kinase gene (pykF; WO03/008609), the transaldolase gene (talB; WO03/ 008611), the fumarase gene (fum; WO01/02545), the phosphoenolpyruvate synthase gene (pps; EP877090), the non-PTS sucrose uptake systems gene (csc; EP149911), and the sucrose-assimilating genes (scrAB operon; WO90/04636).

Examples of the genes involved in energy metabolism include the transhydrogenase gene (pntAB; U.S. Pat. No. 5,830,716) and the cytochromoe bo type oxidase gene (cyo-ABCD; EP1070376).

<1-2> Method for Increasing the Activity of β-Glucoside PTS

The microorganism of the present invention can be obtained by modifying a microorganism which has the ability to produce an L-amino acid and which belongs to the Enterobacteriaceae family, as described above, so as to increase the enzymatic activity of the β -glucoside PTS. However, the ability to produce an L-amino acid may be imparted after modification to increase the enzymatic activity of the β -glucoside PTS.

An increase in the enzymatic activity of the β -glucoside PTS can be achieved by modifying the expression of the bglF gene which encodes the β -glucoside PTS (described later). The expression of the endogenous bglF gene may be increased through modification of the expression regulatory region, including promoter modification, or the expression of the exogenous bglF gene may be increased by introduction of a plasmid containing the bglF gene, increasing the number of copies by amplifying the bglF gene on the chromosome, etc. Furthermore, a combination of these techniques may be employed.

The β -glucoside PTS in the present invention refers to a permease activity which results in uptake of sugar into the cytoplasm at the same time that the phosphate group in phosbeen increased (JP2-458A, JP2-42988A, JP 8-47397A), etc. 35 phoenolpyruvate (hereinafter, referred to as PEP) is transferred to the β -glucoside. Here, the β -glucoside has 1-Dglucose as the sugar component, for instance, salicin which has been glucoside-linked with salicyl alcohol, or arbutin which has been glucoside-linked to hydroquinone, and generally means a sugar derivative in which various compounds, such as alcohol, phenol, anthocyanin, etc., have been linked to the reduction group of the β -D-glucose. The β -glucoside PTS may also function to transfer the phosphate group, not only to the β -glucoside, but also to the glucose at the same time (E. coli & Salmonella 2nd Edition American society for Microbiology).

An increase in the enzymatic activity of the β -glucoside PTS can be confirmed by in vitro measurement of the phosphorylating activity, using the method of Chen et al. (Biochemistry 1998 37:8714-8723) (EC 2.7.1.69). Enhancement of the expression of bglF can also be confirmed by comparing the amounts of mRNA of bglF with that in a wild-type or non-modified strain of bacteria. Northern hybridization and RT-PCR can also be used to confirm expression. (Molecular Cloning (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor (USA), 2001)). The degree of increase in enzymatic activity is not limited as long as the activity is increased as compared to that in the wild-type or non-modified strain, but it is desirable, for example, for it to be 1.5 or more times, preferably 2 or more times, or more preferably 3 or more times that of the wild or non-modified strain. An increase in the enzymatic activity can be confirmed if the target protein amount is increased relative to that of the non-modified or wild-type strain. This can be detected, for instance, by Western blot using an antibody (Molecular Cloning (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold spring Harbor (USA), 2001)). The bglF gene of the present invention is derived from or

native to the bacteria of the genus *Escherichia* and their homologs. For example, the bglF gene of *Escherichia coli* encodes a protein with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 6. The gene is registered with Genbank NP_418178 and W3110's sequence is registered with Genbank 5 PTV3B_ECOLI [P08722], both are identical to SEQ ID No.5. The bglF gene of *Escherichia Coli* is shown in SEQ ID No.5, and the amino acid sequence is shown in SEQ ID No. 6.

The homologs of the bglF gene include those which are derived from or native to other microorganisms, and which 10 have high similarity in structure to the bglF gene of *Escheri*chia coli, and which improve the ability to produce an L-amino acid and exhibit β-glucoside PTS activity when introduced into a host. Examples of bglF homologs are the bglF gene from Erwinia carotovora (Genbank Accession No. 15 YP_050260), the bglF gene from Streptococcus agalactiae (NP-735260), and the bglF gene from *Photorhabdus lumine*scens subsp. (NP_927931). Furthermore, based on the homology with the genes given in the above examples, the bglF gene may be cloned from the coryneform group of 20 bacteria, such as Corynebacterium glutamicum, Brevibacterium lactofermentum, etc.; the bacteria of the genus Pseudomonas, such as Pseudomonas aeruginosa, etc.; the bacteria of the genus *Mycobacterium*, such as *Mycobacte*rium tuberculosis, etc.; and so forth. For example, the bglF gene may be cloned using synthetic oligonucleotides SEQ ID Nos. 1 and 2.

The genes encoding the β -glucoside PTS used in the present invention are not limited to the wild-type genes, and as long as the function of the encoded β -glucoside PTS pro- 30 tein, i.e., the β-glucoside PTS activity, is not impaired. They can also be a mutant or an artificially modified product encoding a protein which includes a sequence containing several amino acid substitutions, deletions, insertions, additions, or sequence of SEQ ID No. 6. Here, the term "several" varies with the type and position of the amino acid residues in the stereostructure of the protein. Specifically, it means 1 to 20, preferably 1 to 10, and more preferably 1 to 5. The above substitutions, deletions, insertions, or additions of one or 40 several amino acids are conservative mutations that preserve the β-glucoside PTS activity. A conservative mutation is when substitution takes place mutually among Phe, Trp, Tyr, if the substitution site is an aromatic amino acid; among Leu, Ile, Val, if the substitution site is a hydrophobic amino acid; 45 between Gln, Asn, if it is a polar amino acid; among Lys, Arg, His, if it is a basic amino acid; between Asp, Glu, if it is an acidic amino acid; and between Ser, Thr, if it is an amino acid having a hydroxyl group. Typical conservative mutations are conservative substitutions. Preferred conservative substitu- 50 tions include substitution of Ala by Ser or Thr; the substitution of Arg by Gln, His, or Lys; the substitution of Asn by Glu, Gln, Lys, His, or Asp; the substitution of Asp by Asn, Glu, or Gln; the substitution of Cys by Ser or Ala; the substitution of Gln by Asn, Glu, Lys, His, Asp, or Arg; the substitution of Gly, 55 Asn, Gln, Lys, or Asp; the substitution of Gly by Pro; the substitution of His by Asn, Lys, Gln, Arg, or Tyr; the substitution of Ile by Leu, Met, Val, or Phe; the substitution of Leu by Ile, Met, Val, or Phe; the substitution of Lys by Asn, Glu, Gln, His, or Arg; the substitution of Met by Ile, Leu, Val, or 60 Phe; the substitution of Phe by Trp, Tyr, Met, Ile, or Leu; the substitution of Ser by Thr or Ala; the substitution of Thr by Ser or Ala; the substitution of Trp by Phe or Tyr; the substitution of Tyr by His, Phe, or Trp; and the substitution of Val by Met, Ile, or Leu. Substitutions, deletions, insertions, addi- 65 tions, or inversions and the like of the amino acids described above include ones that have naturally occurred (mutant or

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variant) due to the differences between species, or individual differences of microorganisms that retain bglF genes. Such genes can be obtained by modifying, using, for instance, the site-specific mutation method, the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 5, so that the site-specific amino acid residue in the protein encoded includes substitutions, deletions, insertions, or additions.

Moreover, the bglF gene homologs can have 80% or above, preferably 90% or above, more preferably 95% or above, even more preferably 97% or above, homology with the amino acid sequence of SEQ No. 6. Since the degenerate code properties of a gene vary with the host into which the gene is introduced, a gene substituted with codons that are more readily utilized by the host is desirable. Likewise, as long as the bglF gene encodes a protein with the function of the β-glucoside PTS, the N terminal or C terminal of the gene may be extended or removed. For example, the number of amino acids which can be extended or removed may be 50 or less, preferably 20 or less, more preferably 10 or less, and even more preferably 5 or less. More specifically, a gene which encodes a protein with from 50 to 5 amino acids extended or removed from either end of SEQ ID No.6 may be used.

bacteria of the genus Mycobacterium, such as Mycobacterium tuberculosis, etc.; and so forth. For example, the bgIF gene may be cloned using synthetic oligonucleotides SEQ ID No. 1 and 2.

The genes encoding the β -glucoside PTS used in the present invention are not limited to the wild-type genes, and as long as the function of the encoded β -glucoside PTS protein, i.e., the β -glucoside PTS activity, is not impaired. They can also be a mutant or an artificially modified product encoding a protein which includes a sequence containing several amino acid substitutions, deletions, insertions, additions, or the like at one or multiple positions in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 6. Here, the term "several" varies with the type and position of the amino acid residues in the

The bglF gene can also be a DNA that hybridizes under stringent conditions with nucleotide sequences complementary to the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID No.5, or with a probe prepared from these sequences. Here, the term "stringent conditions" refers to conditions under which so-called specific hybrids are formed and nonspecific hybrids are not formed. Although it is difficult to clearly express such conditions in numbers, these can be exemplified as conditions under which highly homologous fragments of DNA, for example, DNA having homology no less than 80%, 90%, or 95%, hybridize with each other and DNAs having homology lower than the above do not hybridize with each other. Alternatively, stringent conditions are exemplified by conditions typical of Southern hybridization washing conditions, which are to wash once or preferably two to three times at a temperature and salt concentration corresponding to 60° C., 1×SSC, 0.1% SDS, preferably 0.1×SSC, 0.1% SDS, and more preferably, 68° C., 0.1×SSC, 0.1% SDS.

DNA containing the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 5, or a part thereof may also be used as the probe. Such a probe can be prepared using PCR wherein a DNA fragment containing a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 5 is used as the template, and an oligonucleotide prepared based on the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 5 as the primer. For example, when using an approx. 300 bp long DNA fragment as the probe, the hybridization washing conditions are 50° C., 2×SSC, and 0.1% SDS.

To enhance the expression of the bglF gene, genetic recombination techniques, for example, can be employed to increase the number of copies of the above-mentioned bglF

gene in the cell. For example, a DNA fragment containing the bglF gene is ligated with a vector, preferably a multicopy type vector, which functions in the host microorganism to prepare the recombinant DNA, which is then introduced into the microorganism to transform it.

When the bglF gene of *Escherichia coli* is used, the bglF gene can be obtained by PCR (PCR: polymerase chain reaction; see White, T. J. et al., Trends Genet. 5, 185 (1989)) in which the chromosomal DNA of *Escherichia coli* is the template, and primers are prepared based on the nucleotide 1 sequence of SEQ ID No. 5, for example, the primers shown in SEQ ID Nos. 1 and 2. The bglF genes of other microorganisms belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae can also be obtained from the known bglF genes in those microorganisms, the bglF genes in microorganisms of other species, 15 chromosomal DNA, or a chromosomal DNA library of microorganisms by PCR wherein the primers are prepared based on the sequence information of the BglF protein, or by hybridization wherein a probe is prepared based on the abovementioned sequence information. Incidentally, chromosomal 20 DNA can be prepared from DNA donor microorganisms. For example, the method of Saito and Miura, etc. (H. Saito and K. Miura, Biochem. Biophys. Acta, 72, 619 (1963), Seibutsu Kogaku Jikkensho edited by The Society of Biotechnology, Japan, pp. 97-98, Baifukan, 1992) may be used.

Next, the recombinant DNA is prepared by ligating the bglF gene(s) amplified by PCR using a vector DNA capable of functioning in the chosen host microorganism, for example, one which is autonomously replicable in the cells of the host microorganism. Examples of autonomously replicable vectors in cells of *Escherichia coli* include pUC19, pUC18, pHSG299, pHSG399, pHSG398, pACYC184, (pHSG and pACYC are available from Takara Bio Inc.), RSF1010, pBR322, pMW219 (pMW is available from Nippon Gene Co., Ltd.), pSTV29 (available from Takara Bio 35 Inc.), etc.

Recombinant DNA prepared as described above may be introduced into a microorganism in accordance with any of the transformation methods which have been reported to date. For example, the permeability of the DNA can be increased 40 by treating the recipient bacteria with calcium chloride, as reported with regards to Escherichia coli K-12 (Mandel, M. and Higa, A., J. Mol. Biol., 53, 159 (1970)). Another method is to introduce the DNA after preparing competent cells from the cells at the growth phase, as reported with regards to 45 Bacillus subtilis (Duncan, C. H., Wilson, G. A. and Young, F. E., Gene, 1, 153 (1977)). Also, in relation to *Bacillus subtilis*, actinomycete and yeast, the host microorganism can be changed into the protoplast or spheroplast state that can easily uptake the recombinant DNA, which is then introduced into 50 the DNA recipient bacteria (Chang, S. and Choen, S, N., Molec. Gen. Genet., 168, 111 (1979); Bibb, M. J., Ward, J. M. and Hopwood, O. A., Nature, 274, 398 (1978); Hinnen, A., Hicks, J. B. and Fink, G. R., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 75 1929 (1978)).

The copy number of the bglF gene can be increased by introducing multiple copies of the bglF gene as described above into the chromosomal DNA of the microorganism. Multiple copies of the bglF gene can be introduced into the chromosomal DNA of the microorganism by homologous 60 recombination, using a a target sequence which is present in multiple copies on the chromosomal DNA. Examples of sequences which are present in multiple copies include repetitive DNA and inverted repeats present on the ends of transposable elements. Also, these genes may be ligated in 65 tandem with the bglF gene present on the chromosome or incorporated by duplication of unnecessary genes on the

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chromosome. These genes can be introduced using a temperature-sensitive vector or integration vector.

As disclosed JP2-109985A, the bglF gene can be incorporated into a transposon, and the transposon transferred to incorporate multiple copies into the chromosomal DNA. The presence of the gene on the chromosome can be confirmed by Southern hybridization using a part of the bglF gene as a probe.

Aside from increasing the copy number described above, expression of the bglF gene can also be enhanced by employing the methods described in WO00/18935, such as substituting the expression regulatory sequence of the bglF gene promoter, etc., on the chromosomal DNA or plasmid with a stronger one, approximating the -35, -10 regions to the consensus sequence, amplifying a regulator which can enhance the expression of the bglF gene, and deleting or weakening a regulator which would decrease the expression of the bglF gene. For example, the lac promoter, trp promoter, trc promoter, tac promoter, araBA promoter, lambda phage PR promoter, PL promoter, tet promoter, T7 promoter, \$\phi 10\$ promoter, etc., are all known as strong promoters. It is also possible to introduce a base substitution, etc., into the bglF gene's promoter region and SD region to achieve greater promoter strength.

Examples of methods for evaluating the strength of promoters and examples of strong promoters are described in articles by Goldstein et al. (Prokaryotic promoters in biotechnology. Biotechnol. Annu. Rev., 1995, 1, 105-128), etc. Furthermore, the substitution of several nucleotides into the spacer region between the ribosome binding site (RBS) and the start codon, particularly into the sequence immediately upstream of the start codon, is known to have a strong effect on mRNA translation efficiency. These can be modified. The expression regulatory regions of the bglF gene's promoter, etc., can be determined by promoter search vectors and gene analysis software such as GENETYX, etc. Expression of the bglF gene can be strengthened by substitutions or modifications of these promoters. Substitution of expression regulatory sequences can be conducted, for example, by employing temperature-sensitive plasmids or the Red-driven integration method (WO2005/010175).

In order to increase the activity of a protein encoded by bglF gene, a mutation which increases the activity of a β -glucoside PTS may also be introduced into the bglF gene. Examples of mutations which increase the activity of the protein encoded by the bglF gene include a mutation of the promoter sequence, which increases the transcription of the bglF gene, and a mutation within the coding region of the gene, which increases the specific activity of the BglF protein.

<2> Method for Producing L-Amino Acid

The method for producing L-amino acids of the present invention includes culturing the microorganism of the present invention in a medium, allowing the L-amino acid to accumulate in the medium or in the microorganism, and collecting the L-amino acid from the medium or microorganism.

Mediums conventionally used in the fermentation of microorganism to produce L-amino acids may be used in the present invention. That is, an ordinary medium containing a carbon source, nitrogen source, non-organic ions, and other organic components as needed may be used. Carbon sources include a sugar, such as glucose, sucrose, lactose, galactose, fructose, a starch hydrolysase, etc.; an alcohol, such as glycerol, solbitol, etc.; an organic acid, such as fumaric acid, citric acid, succinic acid, etc. Of these, it is preferable to use glucose as the carbon source. Nitrogen sources include an inorganic ammonium salt, such as ammonium sulfate, ammonium chloride, ammonium phosphate, etc., an organic nitrogen, such as

a soybean hydrolysis product, etc., ammonia gas, ammonia water, etc. It is desirable for the organic micronutrient sources to contain an appropriate amount of auxotrophic substances, such as vitamin B1, L-homoserine, etc., or yeast extract, etc. In addition to these, according to necessity, small amounts of potassium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, iron ions, manganese ions, etc., can be added. The medium may be either a natural or synthetic medium as long as it contains a carbon source, nitrogen source, inorganic ions, and, as needed, other organic micronutrients.

It is recommended that the culture be performed under aerobic conditions for 1-7 days at a culture temperature of 24° C.-37° C., with a pH during the culture of 5-9. To adjust the pH, an inorganic or organic acidic or alkali substance, and ammonia gas, and the like, may be used. L-amino acids can be collected from the fermentation solution using one or a combination of a conventional methods, such as ion-exchange resin, precipitation, and other known methods. If the L-amino acid accumulates inside the cells of the microorganism, the cells can be crushed by ultrasound, etc., then removed by centrifugal separation to obtain the supernatant, from which the L-amino acid can be collected using an ion-exchange resin method, etc.

It is also possible to use a liquid medium appropriate for ²⁵ production of L-glutamic acid by precipitation, and to perform the culture while the L-glutamic acid is produced and collects in the medium. Conditions for production of L-glutamic acid include, for example, a pH of 5.0-4.0, preferably a pH of 4.5-4.0, more preferably a pH of 4.3-4.0, and ³⁰ even more preferably a pH of 4.0.

Any known recovery method may be used for collecting the L-glutamic acid from the culture solution after completion of the culture. For example, L-glutamic acid can be collected by concentration crystallization after removing the cells from the culture solution, or via ion-exchange chromatography, etc. When culturing under L-glutamic acid producing conditions, the L-glutamic acid which precipitates in the culture solution can also be collected via centrifugal separation, filtering, etc. In this case, the L-glutamic acid dissolved in the culture may be crystallized and then isolated.

Furthermore, an animal feed additive using the produced fermentation broth can be prepared by using a separation method. L-amino acid separation methods such as centrifug- 45 ing, filtering, decanting, flocculating, or a combination of these can be used to remove or reduce biomass.

The obtained broth can be concentrated using known methods such as a rotary evaporator, thin layer evaporator, reverse osmosis, or nanofiltration (FR8613346B,U.S. Pat. No. 4,997, 50 754, EP410005B, JP1073646B).

The concentrated broth is then processed using the methods of freeze-drying, spray-drying, spray granulation, or any other process to give a preferably free flowing, finely divided powder. This can then be used as an animal feed additive. This free-flowing finely divided powder can be converted into a coarse-grain, very free flowing, stable and largely dust-free product by using suitable compacting or granulating processes. Altogether, more than 90% of the water is removed in this way so that the water concentration of the animal feed additive is less than 10%, preferably less than 5% by weight.

The protein content of the feed additive can be less than 10%, preferably less than 5% by weight, and the concentration of L-threonine can be more than 50%, preferably more than 85%, more preferably more than 95% (U.S. Pat. No. 65 5,431,933, JP1214636B, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,956,471, 4,777, 051, 4,946,654, 5,840,358, 6,238,714, US2005/0025878).

The separation steps described above do not necessarily have to be performed, but may be combined in a technically expedient manner.

EXAMPLES

The present invention will be explained more specifically below with reference to the following non-limiting examples.

Reference Example 1

Construction of an L-Lysine-Producing Bacterium

<1-1> Construction of a Strain in which the cadA and ldcC
Genes that Encode Lysine Decarboxylase are Disrupted

First, a strain which does not produce lysine decarboxylase was constructed. The Red-driven integration method described in WO WO2005/010175 and a λ phage excision system (J. Bacteriol. 2002 September; 184 (18): 5200-3. Interactions between integrase and excisionase in the phage lambda excisive nucleoprotein complex. Cho E H, Gumport R I, Gardner J F) were used to construct a strain in which lysine decarboxylase genes were disrupted. Lysine decarboxylase is encoded by the cadA gene (Genbank Accession No. NP_418555. SEQ ID No. 42) and the ldcC gene (Genbank Accession No. NP_414728. SEQ ID No. 44) (WO96/ 17930). The WC196 strain was used as the parent strain. WC196 strain was named *Escherichia coli* AJ13069, and deposited on Dec. 6, 1994 with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology of the Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (currently, International Patent Organism Depositary, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; Chuo 6, 1-1, Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken 305-8566, Japan) under Accession No. FERM P-14690 and converted to an international deposit under the Budapest Treaty on Sep. 29, 1995, and given Accession No. FERM BP-5252.

The cadA and ldcC genes encoding lysine decarboxylase were deleted using a method called "Red-driven integration," which was initially developed by Datsenko and Wanner (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 2000, vol. 97, No. 12, pp. 6640-6645), and a λ phage excision system (J. Bacteriol. 2002 September; 184 (18): 5200-3). According to the "Red-driven integration" method, it is possible to construct a gene-disrupted strain in a single step by using a PCR product obtained with a synthetic oligonucleotide primer derived from the 5' terminal end of the target gene and the 3' terminal end of the antibiotic-resistant gene. Furthermore, via λ phage excision, the antibiotic-resistant gene which was integrated into the chromosome can be removed from the strain.

(1) Disruption of the cadA Gene

The pMW118-attL-Cm-attR plasmid described below was used as the PCR template. pMW118-attL-Cm-attR was obtained by inserting the attL and attR-attachment site of α-phage and the cat gene, which is an antibiotic-resistant gene, into pMW118 (Takara Bio Inc.), in the following order: attL-cat-attR (see WO2005/010175). The attL sequence is shown in SEQ ID No. 11, and the attR sequence is shown in SEQ ID No. 12.

PCR was conducted using the synthetic oligonucleotides shown in SEQ ID Nos. 46 and 47 as primers, wherein a sequence corresponding to both ends of attL and attR was at the primer's 3' end and a sequence corresponding to part of the cadA gene, the target gene, was at the primer's 5' end.

The amplified PCR product was purified with an agarose gel, then introduced by electroporation into an *Escherichia* coli WC196 strain containing plasmid pKD46, which has a

temperature-sensitive replication origin. Plasmid pKD46 (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 2000, vol. 97, No. 12, pp. 6640-6645) includes the λ phage DNA fragment (2154 bases), and the genes (γ , β , and exo) that encode Red recombinase in the λ Red homologous recombination system under the control 5 of the arabinose-induced ParaB promoter (GenBank/EMBL Accession No. J02459, 31088th-33241st).

Competent cells for electroporation were prepared as follows. The Escherichia coli WC196 strain which was cultured overnight at 30° C. in an LB medium containing 100 mg/L ampicillin was diluted 100 times in a 5 mL SOB medium containing ampicillin (20 mg/L) and L-arabinose (1 mM) (Molecular Cloning: Lab Manual 2nd edition, Sambrook, J., et al., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989)). The dilution product was cultured at 30° C. until OD 600 grew to 15 approx. 0.6, and then this was concentrated 100 fold and washed three times with 10% glycerol in preparation for electroporation. Electroporation was performed using 70 µl competent cells and approx. 100 ng PCR product. 1 mL SOC medium (Molecular Cloning: Lab Manual 2nd edition, Sambrook, J., et al., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989)) was added and cultured at 37° C. for 2.5 hours, then cultured on a plate medium of L-agar containing Cm (chloramphenicol) (25 mg/L) at 37° C. and the Cm-resistant recombinants were selected. Next, to remove the pKD46 plasmid, cells were subcultured twice on an L-agar medium containing Cm at 42° C., the ampicillin resistance of the colony was tested, and an ampicillin-sensitive strain without pKD46 was obtained.

Deletion of the cadA gene in the mutant identified by the chloramphenicol-resistant gene was confirmed using PCR. The cadA deficient strain was designated WC196∆cadA::attcat.

Next, to remove the att-cat gene which is introduced into the cadA gene, a helper plasmid, pMW-intxis-ts, described 35 below, was used. pMW-intxis-contains a gene (SEQ ID No. 13) that encodes λ phage integrase (Int) and a gene (SEQ ID) No. 15) that encodes excisionase (Xis) and has temperaturesensitive replication ability. By introducing pMW-intxis-ts, attL (SEQ ID No. 11) and attR (SEQ ID No. 12) on the 40 chromosome are recognized, causing recombination, and the genes between attL and attR are excised, leaving only the attL or attR sequence on the chromosome.

Competent cells of the WC196\(Delta\)cadA::att-cat strain obtained as described above were prepared using a typical method, and were transformed with helper plasmid pMWintxis-ts, cultured on a plate medium of L-agar containing 50 mg/L ampicillin at 30° C., thus selecting the ampicillin-resistant strain. Next, to remove the pMW-intxis-ts plasmid, the transformants were subcultured on an L-agar medium at 42° C., the ampicillin resistance and the chloramphenical resistance of the colony obtained were tested, and a chloramphenicol-and ampicillin-sensitive strain from which the att-cat and pMW-intxis-ts were removed was obtained. This strain was designated WC196∆cadA.

- (2) Deletion of the ldcC Gene in the WC196∆cadA Strain 55 The ldcC gene in the WC196∆cadA strain was deleted in accordance with the technique described above, using primers having the sequences of SEQ ID Nos. 48 and 49 as the ldcC disrupting primers. This results in WC196ΔcadAΔldcC, in which both cadA and ldcC are disrupted.
- (3) Preparation of the PCR Template and Helper Plasmid The PCR template pMW118-attL-Cm-attR and helper plasmid pMW-intxis-ts were prepared as follows.
 - (3-1) pMW118-attL-Cm-attR

pMW118-attL-Cm-attR. The following four DNA fragments were prepared:

- 1) BglII-EcoRI DNA fragment (120 bp) (SEQ ID No. 11) containing attL obtained by PCR amplification of the sequence corresponding to the chromosome of the E. coli W3350 strain (ATCC31278 containing λ prophage), using oligonucleotides P1 and P2 (SEQ ID Nos. 17 & 18) as primers (these primers additionally contained the recognition sites of the BgIII and EcoRI endonucleases),
- 2) PstI-HindIII DNA fragment (182 bp) (SEQ ID No. 12) containing attR obtained by PCR amplification of the sequence corresponding to the chromosome of the $E.\ coli$ W3350 strain (containing λ prophage), using oligonucleotides P3 and P4 (SEQ ID Nos. 19 & 20) as primers (these primers additionally contained the recognition sites of the PstI and HindIII endonucleases),
- 3) BglII-HindIII large fragment (3916 bp) of pMW118ter_rrnB: The pMW118-ter_rrnB was obtained by ligating the following three fragments:
- i) A large fragment (2359 bp) containing an AatII-EcoRIpol fragment from pMW118 obtained by digesting the 20 pMW118 with an EcoRI restriction endonuclease, treating it with a Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I, then digesting the fragment with an AatII restriction endonuclease,
- ii) An AatII-BglII small fragment (1194 bp) of pUC19 containing the ampicillin-resistant (Ap^R) bla gene obtained 25 by PCR-amplifying the sequence corresponding to the pUC19 plasmid, using oligonucleotides P5 and P6 (SEQ ID Nos. 21 & 22) as primers (these primers additionally contained the recognition sites of the AatII and BglII endonucleases),
 - iii) A small BglII-PstIpol fragment (363 bp) containing transcription terminator ter_rrnB obtained by PCR-amplifying the region corresponding to the chromosome of the E. coli MG1655 strain, using oligonucleotides P7 and P8 (SEQ ID Nos. 23 & 24) as primers (these primers additionally contained the recognition sites of the BglII and PstI endonucleases),
 - 4) A small EcoRI-PstI fragment (1388 bp) (SEQ ID No. 29) of pML-Tc-ter_thrL containing a tetracycline-resistant gene and transcription terminator ter_thrL. The pML-Tc-ter_thrL was obtained as follows.

A pML-MSC (Mol Biol (Mosk). 2005 September-October; 39(5):823-31; Biotechnologiya (Russian) No. 5: 3-20.) was digested with XbaI and BamHI restriction endonucleases, and a large fragment of this (3342 bp) was ligated 45 with an XbaI-BamHI fragment (68 bp) that contained the terminator ter_thrL. The XbaI-BamHI fragment (68 bp) corresponded to the chromosome of *E. coli* MG1655, and was obtained by PCR amplification, using oligonucleotides P9 and P10 (SEQ ID Nos. 25 & 26) as primers (these primers additionally contained the recognition sites of the XbaI and BamHII endonucleases). The ligated reaction product was designated plasmid pML-ter_thrL.

The pML-ter_thrL was digested with KpnI and XbaI restriction endonucleases, treated with a Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I, then ligated with a small EcoRI-Van91I fragment (1317 bp) of pBR322 containing the tetracyclineresistant gene (the pBR322 which was digested with EcoRI and Van911 restriction endonucleases was treated with a Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I). The product of this 60 ligation was designated plasmid pML-Tc-ter_thrL.

Next, the pMW118-attL-Cm-attR was constructed by ligation of a large BamHI-XbaI fragment (4413 bp), a PA2 promoter (initial promoter of T7 phage), a chloramphenicolresistant (CrnR) cat gene, an artificial BglII-XbaI DNA pMW118-attL-Tc-attR was constructed based on 65 fragment (1162 bp) containing transcription terminator ter_ thrL, and attR. The artificial DNA fragment (SEQ ID No. 30) was obtained as follows.

pML-MSC (Mol Biol (Mosk). 2005 September-October; 39(5):823-31; Biotechnologiya (Russian) No. 5: 3-20.) was digested with KpnI and XbaI restriction endonucleases, and ligated with a small KpnI-XbaI fragment (120 bp) containing a PA2 promoter (early promoter of T7 phage). A KpnI-XbaI 5 fragment was obtained by amplifying the region corresponding to T7 phage DNA, using oligonucleotides P11 and P12 (SEQ ID Nos. 27 & 28) as primers (these primers additionally contained the recognition sites of the KpnI and XbaI endonucleases) by PCR. The product of the ligation was designated plasmid pML-PA2-MCS.

The XbaI site was removed from pML-PA2-MCS. The product was designated plasmid pML-PA2-MCS(XbaI-).

A small BglII-HindIII fragment (928 bp) of pML-PA2-MCS(XbaI-) containing a PA2 promoter (initial promoter of 15 T7 phage) and chloramphenicol-resistant (CrnR) cat gene was ligated with a small HindIII-HindIII fragment (234 bp) of pMW118-attL-Tc-attR, which contained the transcription terminator ter_thrL, and attR.

The target artificial DNA fragment (1156 bp) was obtained 20 by PCR amplification of the ligation mixture, using oligonucleotides P9 and P4 (SEQ ID Nos. 25 & 20) as primers (these primers contained the recognition sites of the HindIII and XbaI endonucleases).

(3-2) pMW-intxis-ts

First, two DNA fragments were amplified based on λ phage DNA (Fermentas) as the template. The first fragment consisted of a region of nt 37168-38046 of the genome of λ phage DNA (SEQ ID No. 39), and contained a cI repressor, Prm and Pr promoters, and the leader sequence of the cro gene. This 30 fragment was obtained by amplification, using oligonucleotides P1' and P2' (SEQ ID Nos. 31 & 32) as primers. The second fragment consisted of a region of nt 27801-29100 of the genome of K phage DNA (SEQ ID No. 40), which contained the xis-int gene from K phage DNA. This fragment was obtained by PCR, using oligonucleotides P3' and P4' (SEQ ID Nos. 33 & 34) as primers. All of the primers contained the proper endonuclease recognition sites.

The first PCR-amplified fragment, which contained the cI repressor, was digested with a ClaI restriction endonuclease, 40 and then digested with EcoRI restriction endonuclease.

The second PCR fragment was digested with EcoRI and PstI endonucleases. The plasmid pMWPlaclacI-ts was digested with BglII endonuclease, treated with a Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I, and then digested with a PstI 45 restriction endonuclease. A vector fragment of pMWPlaclacI-ts was eluted from an agarose gel and ligated with the cut PCR-amplified fragment.

The plasmid pMWPlaclacI-ts is a derivative of pMWPlaclacI containing the following parts: 1) an artificial BglII- 50 HindIII DNA fragment containing a PlacUV5 promoter and the lacI gene under control of the RBS of the bacteriophage T7 gene 10; 2) an AatII-BglII fragment containing the ampicillin-resistant (Ap^R) gene obtained by PCR amplification of the region corresponding to the pUC19 plasmid, using oligo- 55 nucleotides P5' and P6' (SEQ ID Nos. 35 & 36) as primers (these primers contained the recognition sites of the AatII and BglII endonucleases); 3) an AatII-HindIII fragment containing an AatII-PvuI fragment of a recombinant plasmid pMW118-ter_rrnB. The plasmid pMW118-ter_rrnB was 60 constructed as follows. A PstI-HindIII fragment containing a terminator ter_rrnB was obtained by PCR amplification of the region corresponding to the chromosome of the $E.\ coli$ MG1655 strain, using as primers oligonucleotides P7' and P8' (SEQ ID Nos. 37 & 38) which contained the proper endonu- 65 clease recognition sites. Prior to ligation, the pMW118 and ter_rrnB fragments (complementary strand of SEQ ID No.

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41) were digested with PvuI or PstI, respectively, treated with a Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I to blunt the ends, and then digested with AatII or HindIII endonuclease. In the construction of the pMWPlaclacI-ts mutant, an AatII-EcoRV fragment of plasmid pMWPlaclacI was substituted with an AatII-EcoRV fragment of plasmid pMAN997 which contained the par, ori, and repAts genes of the pSC101 replicon. (Applied and Environmental Microbiology, June 2005, p. 3228-32)

Example 1

Construction of Plasmid for bglF Overexpression

The total genome sequence of the chromosome of *Escherichia coli* (*Escherichia coli* K-12 strain) has been determined (Science, 277, 1453-1474 (1997)). Based on the nucleotide sequence of the bglF gene, using as a 5' primer the synthetic oligonucleotide of SEQ ID No.1 having a HindIII site, and as a 3' primer the synthetic oligonucleotide of SEQ ID No.2 having an XbaI site, PCR was performed using chromosomal DNA of the *Escherichia Coli* MG1655 strain as the template. The PCR product was treated with restriction endonucleases HindIII and XbaI, and a gene fragment that contained the bglF genes was obtained.

The purified PCR product was ligated with vector pMW219 which had been digested with HindIII and XbaI (Nippon Gene Co., Ltd.) to construct a plasmid pM-bglF for bglF overexpression. This plasmid was under the control of a lac promoter and the bglF gene was placed downstream of the lac promoter. pM-bglF was digested with HindIII and EcoRI, the bglF gene fragments were collected and purified, and ligated to vector pSTV29 which had been digested with HindIII and EcoRI (Takara Shuzo). In this way, the plasmid pS-bglF for bglF overexpression was constructed.

In the same manner as with the above-mentioned bglF gene, a plasmid for expressing the ptsG gene was constructed as the control. The sequence of ptsG is shown in SEQ ID No. 7 and the sequence of the amino acid is given in SEQ ID No. 8; the ptsG sequence can be obtained with reference to Genbank Accession No. NP_415619. Using as a 5' primer the synthetic oligonucleotide of SEQ ID No.3 containing a HindIII site, and as a 3' primer the synthetic oligonucleotide of SEQ ID No.4 containing an XbaI site, PCR was performed using the chromosomal DNA of the Escherichia Coli MG1655 strain as the template, and the PCR fragment was treated with restriction endonucleases HindIII and XbaI, and a gene fragment containing ptsG was obtained. The purified PCR product was ligated with vector pMW219, which had been digested with HindIII and XbaI, to construct plasmid pM-ptsG for ptsG overexpression. This plasmid was under the control of a lac promoter, and the ptsG gene was placed downstream of the lac promoter. In the same manner as with the bglF, the ptsG gene fragment was excised from the pMptsG, and ligated to vector pSTV29. In this way, the plasmid pS-ptsG for ptsG overexpression was constructed.

Example 2

Construction of the Strain in which the bglF Gene is Overexpressed and Evaluation of L-Lysine Production of the Strain

As an *Escherichia coli* L-lysine-producing strain, the WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2) strain was used as parent strain. Lys-producing plasmid pCABD2 carrying the dapA, dapB, and lysC genes (WO01/53459) was introduced into the

WC196ΔldcCΔcadA strain. The WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2) strain was transformed with the bglF-overexpression plasmid pM-bglF and the ptsG-overexpression plasmid pM-ptsG constructed in Example 1, and the control plasmid pMW219, and kanamycin-resistant strains were obtained. After confirming that these plasmids had been introduced, the bglF-overexpression plasmid pM-bglF-introduced strain was designated WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pM-bglF); the ptsG-overexpression plasmid pM-ptsG-introduced strain was designated WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pM-ptsG); and the control plasmid pMW219-introduced strain was designated WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pMW219).

The strains constructed as described above were cultured in an L medium containing 25 mg/L kanamycin at 37° C. to finally become OD600 0.6. Then, an equal volume of a 40% glycerol solution was added to the culture and stirred, then appropriate amounts were pipetted and stored at –80° C. This was called the glycerol stock.

After melting the glycerol stock of these strains, 100 μL of each was evenly spread onto an L plate containing 25 mg/L kanamycin, and this was cultured at 37° C. for 24 hours. 20 Approx. ½ of the cells on the plate were inoculated into a 20 mL fermentation medium (shown below) with 25 mg/L kanamycin in a 500 mL Sakaguchi shaking flask, and cultured at 37° C. for 24 hours using a reciprocating shaking culture apparatus. After culturing, the amount of lysine which had accumulated in the medium was measured using a Biotechanalyzer AS210 (Sakura Seiki).

The OD and L-lysine which had accumulated at the 24th hour are shown in Table 1. As evident in Table 1, a large amount of L-lysine accumulated in the WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pM-bglF) strain, compared to the WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pMW219) strain which did not contain the bglF genes. An improvement in the amount of L-lysine which accumulated was also confirmed in comparison with the WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pM-ptsG) strain, which did contain the ptsG gene. Such data shows that overexpression of the bglF gene is more effective in lysine production than overexpression of the ptsG.

TABLE 1

Bacterial strain	OD600	Lys-HCl(g/L)
WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pMW219)	12.6	10.0
WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pM-bglF)	17.1	16.1
WC196ΔldcCΔcadA (pCABD2, pM-ptsG)	15.8	14.7

Medium for L-Lysine Production:

Glucose	40 g/L
Ammonium sulfate	24 g/L
Potassium Dihydrogen Phosphate	1.0 g/L
Magnesium sulfate 7-hydrate	1.0 g/L
Ferrous sulfate 4•7-hydrate	0.01 g/L
Manganese sulfate 4•7-hydrate	0.01 g/L
Yeast extract	2.0 g/L
Calcium carbonate	30 g/L

Adjusted to pH 7.0 with KOH, and sterilized at 115° C. for 10 min. Glucose and MgSO₄•7H₂O were sterilized separately.

Example 3

Effect of bglF Overexpression on an L-Glutamic Acid-Producing Strain of *Escherichia* Bacteria

As an *Escherichia coli* L-glutamic acid-producing strain, the AJ12949 strain was used as the parent strain. The AJ12949

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strain is a bacterial strain in which the α-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase activity has been reduced, and was deposited on Dec. 28, 1993 with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology of the Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (currently, International Patent Organism Depositary, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; Chuo 6, 1-1, Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken 305-8566, Japan) under Accession No. FERM P-14039 and converted to an international deposit under the Budapest Treaty on Nov. 11, 1994, and given Accession No. FERM BP-4881.

The AJ12949 strain was transformed with the bglF-over-expression plasmid pS-bglF used in Example 1, and the control plasmid pSTV29, and chloramphenicol-resistant strains were obtained. After confirming that the plasmids had been introduced, the strain into which the bglF-overexpression plasmid pS-bglF was introduced was designated AJ12949 (pS-bglF); and the strain into which the control plasmid pSTV29 was introduced was designated AJ12949 (pSTV29).

The AJ12949 (pS-bglF) strain and the AJ12949 (pSTV29) strain were cultured in an L medium containing 20 mg/L chloramphenicol at 37° C. to finally become OD600 0.6. After this, an equal volume of a 40% glycerol solution was added to the culture and stirred, then appropriate amounts were pipetted to obtain a glycerol stock and stored at –80° C.

After melting the glycerol stock of these strains, 100 µL of each was evenly spread onto an L plate containing 20 mg/L chloramphenicol, and cultured at 37° C. for 24 hours. Approx. ½ of the cells on the plate were inoculated into a 20 mL fermentation medium (described below) with 20 mg/L chloramphenicol in a 500 mL Sakaguchi flask, and cultured at 37° C. for 40 hours using a reciprocating shaking culture apparatus. After culturing, the amount of L-glutamic acid which had accumulated in the medium was measured using a Biotech-analyzer AS210 (Sakura Seiki).

The OD and L-glutamic acid which had accumulated at the 40th hour are shown in Table 2. As shown in Table 2, a large amount of L-glutamic acid had accumulated in the AJ12949 (pS-bglF) strain, compared to the AJ12949 (pSTV29) strain which did not contain the bglF genes.

TABLE 2

Bacterial strain	OD600	L-Glu (g/L)
AJ12949 (pSTV29)	14.7	18.6
AJ12949 (pS- bglF)	16.6	20.4

Medium for L-Glutamic Acid-Production:

	Glucose	40 g/L
55	Ammonium sulfate	20 g/L
, 5	Potassium Dihydrogen Phosphate	1.0 g/L
	Magnesium sulfate 7-hydrate	1.0 g/L
	Ferrous sulfate 4•7-hydrate	0.01 g/L
	Manganese sulfate 4•7-hydrate	0.01 g/L
	Yeast extract	2.0 g/L
50	Calcium carbonate	30 g/L

Adjusted to pH 7.0 with KOH, sterilized at 115° C. for 10 min.

Glucose and MgSO4.7H₂O were sterilized separately.

Also, after the culture temperature was at 60° C. or below, a thiamine hydrochloride solution which had been sterilized with a DISMIC-25cs 0.2 mm filter (ADVANTEC) was added to obtain the final concentration of 0.01 g/L.

28
Medium for L-Threonine-Production:

Effect of bglF Overexpression on an
L-Threonine-Producing Strain of Bacteria of the
Genus Escherichia

As the parent strain of the bglF overexpression for L-threonine-production, the B-5318 strain was used. The B-5318 strain was deposited on May 3, 1990 with the Russian National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (VKPM), GNII Genetika (Russia, 117545 Moscow, 1 Dorozhny Proezd, 1) under Accession No. VKPM B-5318. The construction of the bglF overexpression strain from B-5318 was performed using the plasmid as described in Example 1.

The B-5318 strain was transformed with the bglF-amplifying plasmid pS-bglF used in Example 1 and the control plasmid pSTV29, and chloramphenicol-resistant strains were obtained. After confirming that the prescribed plasmids had been introduced, the strain into which bglF-overexpression plasmid pS-bglF was introduced was designated B-5318 (pS-bglF); and the strain into which control plasmid pSTV29 was introduced was designated B-5318 (pSTV29).

The B-5318 (pS-bglF) strain and the B-5318 (pSTV29) strain were cultured in an L medium containing 20 mg/L 25 chloramphenicol at 37° C. to finally become OD600 0.6. After this, an equal volume of a 40% glycerol solution was added to the culture and stirred, then appropriate amounts were pipetted to obtain a glycerol stock and stored at -80° C.

After melting the glycerol stock of these strains, 100 µL of an each was evenly spread onto an L plate containing 20 mg/L chloramphenicol, and cultured at 37° C. for 24 hours. Approx. % of the cells on the plate were inoculated into a 20 mL fermentation medium with 20 mg/L chloramphenicol in a 500 mL Sakaguchi shaking flask, and cultured at 37° C. for 16 hours using a reciprocating shaking culture apparatus. After culturing, the amount of L-threonine which had accumulated in the medium was measured using high-performance liquid chromatography.

The OD and L-threonine which had accumulated at the 40 16th hour are shown in Table 3. As shown in the table, a large amount of L-threonine had accumulated in the B-5318 (pS-bglF) strain, compared to the B-5318 (pSTV29) strain, which did not contain the bglF gene.

TABLE 3

Bacterial strain	OD600	L-threonine (g/L)
B-5318 (pSTV29)	8.0	3.6
B-5318 (pS-bglF)	10.3	4.4

5	Glucose	60 g/L
3	Ammonium sulfate	16 g/L
	Potassium Dihydrogen Phosphate	0.7 g/L
	Magnesium sulfate 7-hydrate	1.0 g/L
	Ferrous sulfate 7-hydrate	0.01 g/L
	Manganese sulfate 7-hydrate	$0.01 \mathrm{g/L}$
	Yeast extract	0.5 g/L
10	Thiamine hydrochloride	0.2 mg/L
	L-isoleucine	$0.05~\mathrm{g/L}$
	Calcium carbonate	30 g/L

Adjusted to pH 7.0 with KOH, sterilized at 115° C. for 10 min.

However, glucose and MgSO4.7H₂O were sterilized separately. Potassium hydroxide was sterilized by dry heat at 180° C. for 3 hours. After the culture temperature came down to 60° C. or lower, a thiamine hydrochloride solution which had been sterilized with a DISMIC-25cs 0.2 mm filter (ADVANTEC) was added to obtain the final concentration of 0.2 mg/L.

Example 5

Effect of bglF Overexpression on an L-Glutamic Acid-Producing Strain of *Pantoea* Bacteria

As the parent strain of the bglF amplification L-glutamic acid-producing strain, the *Pantoea ananatis* AJ13601 strain can be used. The *Pantoea ananatis* AJ13601 strain was deposited on Aug. 18, 1999 with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (1-3, Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken 305-8566) under Accession No. FERM P-17516 and converted to an international deposit under the Budapest Treaty on Jul. 6, 2000, and given Accession No. FERM BP-7207. The bglF amplified strains can be constructed from L-glutamic acid-producing bacteria using the plasmid described in Example 1.

The bglF overexpressed strains are cultured in an L-glutamic acid-production medium and cultured using a reciprocating shaking culture apparatus. After culturing, the amount of L-glutamic acid which had accumulated in the medium is measured using Biotech-analyzer AS210 (Sakura Seiki) to confirm whether the accumulation of L-glutamic acid has increased. In this way, the bglF overexpressed strain with an improved L-glutamic acid-producing ability can be obtained.

While the invention has been described in detail with reference to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that various changed can be made, and equivalents employed, without departing from the scope of the invention. All documents cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference.

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Lys Glu	u Phe 35	Gly	Leu	Gly	Arg	Asp 40	Arg	Arg	Ile	Ala	Ile 45	Thr	Glu	Ala			
Ile Gli 50	n Ala	Asn	Ile	Glu	Leu 55	Phe	Ser	Gly	His	Lys 60	His	Lys	Pro	Leu			
Thr Ala	a Arg	Ile	Asn	Ser 70	Asp	Asn	Ser	Val	Thr 75	Leu	His	Ser	Trp	Leu 80			
Asp Arg	g Tyr	Glu	Lys 85	Ile	Leu	Ala	Ser	Arg 90	Gly	Ile	Lys	Gln	Lуs 95	Thr			
Leu Ile	e Asn	Tyr 100	Met	Ser	Lys	Ile	Lys 105	Ala	Ile	Arg	Arg	Gly 110	Leu	Pro			
Asp Ala	115			_		120		_			125						
Asn Gly		Ile	Asp	Glu	G1y 135	Lys	Ala	Ala	Ser	Ala 140	_	Leu	Ile	Arg			
Ser Thi	r Leu	Ser	Asp	Ala 150		Arg	Glu	Ala	Ile 155	Ala	Glu	Gly	His	Ile 160			
Thr Th	r Asn	His	Val 165	Ala	Ala	Thr	Arg	Ala 170	Ala	Lys	Ser	Glu	Val 175	Arg			
Arg Sei	r Arg	Leu 180		Ala	Asp	Glu	Tyr 185	Leu	Lys	Ile	Tyr	Gln 190		Ala			
Glu Ser	r Ser 195		Cys	Trp	Leu	Arg 200	Leu	Ala	Met	Glu	Leu 205	Ala	Val	Val			
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Val Ası 225	p Gly	Tyr	Leu	Tyr 230	Val	Glu	Gln	Ser	Lуs 235	Thr	Gly	Val	Lys	Ile 240			
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<220> FEATURE:

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Att get at att gos ats tig ast can atg gog git test tit ass gas acc at a considerable with the second of the secon												_	con	tin	ued				
Nef Ann Val He Mia The Lem Ann Rio Med Silv Val Tyr Phe Lyu Stu 1	< 40	0> S	EQUEI	NCE :	42														
clu Pro Ile Arg Glu Leu Ric Arg Ala Leu Glu Arg Lea Aon Phe Glu 20 23 30 att git tac cog acc get gac	_		_		Āla		_			Met		_			Lys	_	48		
The Nam Any Ary Any Any Law Leu Live Leu The Glu Ann 36 40 and geg egt ctg tge gge get that tit gao tgg gat and that and cto 50 55 60 60 gag ctg tgo gan gan att ago and and gan ac gan and ctg cog ttg tao Glu Leu Cyo Glu Clu Tie Ser Lyo Met Jam Diyo Tyr Ann Leu Tyr Any Lyo Tyr Ann Leu Tyr Any Lyo Glu Clu Tie Ser Lyo Met Jam Glu Ann Leu Pro Leu Tyr 65 70 75 80 gag ctg tgo gan gan att ago and and gan ac gan acc ctg cog ttg tao Glu Leu Cyo Glu Clu Tie Ser Lyo Met Jam Glu Ann Leu Pro Leu Tyr 65 70 75 80 geg tto get and acg tat too act ctc gat gat ago ctg and gac ctg 288 Ala Phe Ala Ann Thr Tyr Ser Thr Leu Any Val Ser Leu Ann Any Leu Ser Leu Ann Any Leu Ser Leu Glu Ann Any Leu Ser Jam Leu Glu Har Glu Ary Leu Glu He Ser Phe Phe Glu Tyr Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Glu Any 100 105 110 att got and ang ate ang cng acc act gat gan tad att and act act att 11e Ala Ann Thr Tyr Ser Thr Heu Any Glu Tyr He Ann Thr He 115 126 ctg cot cog ctg att ang agod act get gan tad the and act att 126 and 127 11e Ann Lyo He Lyo Glu Thr Thr Any Glu Tyr He Ann Thr He 115 120 ctg cot cog ctg att ang agod att gat ang gat att get gan gat and 432 Leu Pro Pro Leu Thr Lyo Ala Leu Phe Lyo Tyr Val Arg Glu Gly Lyo 130 135 140 ago ctg gat ago ago ago tg ttt ta gat ttt ttt ggt cog and acc and acc att gat ctg the tag att ttt ggt cog and acc acc and any Tyr Thr He Cyo Thr Pro Gly His Met Cly Gly Thr Ala Phe Clu Lyo 148 150 150 150 160 ago cog gat agot ago ctg ttt ta gat ttt ttt ggt cog and acc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc ac	_			Arg	_			_	Ala		_	_	_	Asn		_	96		
Ann Ala Arg Leu Cyo Giy Yal 1le Phe Ann Try Ann Leu 50 gag eth the Cyo Giu Yal 1le Phe Ann Try Ann Leu 190 gag eth the data and the Ser Lyo Met. Ann Giu Ann Leu Pro Leu Tyr 50 70 geg the get and and the Ser Lyo Met. Ann Giu Ann Leu Pro Leu Tyr 50 geg the get and and the Cyo Shu Giu Ann Leu Pro Leu Tyr 50 geg the get and and the Try Ser Thr Leu Ann Val Ser Leu Ann Ann Leu Pro Leu Tyr 50 geg the get and and the Try Ser Thr Leu Ann Val Ser Leu Ann Ann Leu Pro Leu Tyr 50 geg the Get and and the Try Ser Thr Leu Ann Val Ser Leu Ann Ann Leu Tyr Ann Leu Chi Alia Ann Thr Try Ser Thr Leu Ann Val Ser Leu Ann Ann Leu Tyr Alia Ceu Chi Alia Alia Chu Ann Leu Chi The Ser Phe Phe Chu Tyr Alia Leu Chi Alia Alia Chu Ann 100 att get and ann and and and and and and and and		_	Tyr	_		_	_	Asp	_				Leu		_		144		
Glu Leu Cys Glu Glu Ile Ser Lys Met Asn Glu Aen Leu Pro Leu Tyr SS geg ttc get aat acg tat too act ctc gat gat agc ctg aat gac ctg Ala Phe Ala Aon Thr Tyr Ser Thr Leu Any Val Ser Leu Aon Amp Leu SS egt tta cag att agc ttc ttt gaa tat geg ctg ggt gct gct gct gaa gat Arg Leu Gln Ile Ser Phe Phe Glu Tyr Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Glu Amp 100 att gct aat aag atc aag cag acc act gac gas tat atc aac act att Ile Ala Ann Lys Ile Lys Gln Thr Thr Amp Glu Tyr Ile Amn Thr Ile 115 ctg ctc ccg ctg act aas gca ctg ttt aas tat gtt cgt gas ggt asa Leu Pro Pro Leu Thr Lys Ala Leu Fhe Lys Tyr Val Arg Glu Gly Lys 130 tat act ttc tgt act cct ggt cac atg ggc ggt act gct gas ggt asa 140 tat act ttc tgt act cct ggt cac atg ggc ggt act gcd ttc cag asa 7yr Thr Phe Cys Thr Pro Gly His Met Gly Gly Thr Ala Phe Glu Lys 145 agc ccg gta ggt agc ctg ttc tat gat tctt ggt ccg aat acc atg 528 Ser Pro Val Gly Ser Leu Phe Tyr Amp Phe Phe Gly Pro Aon Thr Met 165 asa tct gat att tcc att tca gta tct gas ctg ggt tct ctg ctg gat Lue Amp 180 aca gtg ggt ccg cac aca aas gas gas gas cag tat atc gct cgt gtc ttl Leu Amp 180 aca gtg ggt cca cac aca aas gas gas gas cag tat atc gct cgc gtc ttt Ser Glu Leu Gly Ser Leu Leu Amp 180 acc agt ggt cca cac aca aas gas gas gas cag tat atc gct cgc gtc ttt Ser Gly End Ala Glu Gln Tyr Ile Ala Arg Val Phe 205 aca gca gac cgc agc tac atg gtg acc aca ggt act tcc act gcg acc Am Ala Amp Arg Ser Tyr Met Val Thr Amn Gly Thr Ser Thr Ala Amn 210 aca gt ggt ccs cac aca aas gcs gcs acc acc gca ggc acc act ct ctg att Lys Ile Val Gly Met Tyr Ser Ala Pro Ala Gly Ser Thr Ile Leu Ile 220 gac cgt acc tgc acc tac aas tcg ctg acc acc act atc ggt atc ctt cyc cac gca gcc gt acc ttc gct gcs ttc Val Gly Met Tyr Ser Ala Pro Ala Gly Ser Thr Ile Leu Ile 220 gac cgt acc tgc acc tac ttc cgc ccc gca ccc ctg atc gct tac ggt atc ctt ctt Cycl Cyc Ser Amp Arg Amn Cys His Lys Ser Leu Thr His Leu Met Met Ser Amp 245 gtt acg cca acc acc acc acc acc acc gcc gcc		Ala	_	_	_		Val			_		Āsp					192		
Ala Phe Ala Aen Thr Tyr Ser Thr Leu Aep Val Ser Leu Aen Aep Leu 95 cgt tta cag att agc ttc ttt gaa tat gcg ctg ggt gct gct gaa gat 336 Arg Leu Gln Ile Ser Phe Phe Glu Tyr Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Glu Aep 100 att gct aat aag atc aag cag acc act gac gat gat at atc aac act att 110 att gct aat aag atc aag cag acc act gac gat tat atc aac act att 111 lal Aen Lyo Ile Lyo Gln Thr Thr Aep Glu Tyr Ile Aen Thr Ile 115 ctg cct ccg ctg act aaa gca ctg ttt aaa tat gtt cgt gaa ggt aaa 122 ctg cct ccg ctg act aaa gca ctg ttt aaa tat gtt cgt gaa ggt aaa 140 leu Pro Pro Leu Thr Lyo Ala Leu Phe Lyo Tyr Val Arg Glu Gly Lyo 130 tat act ttc tgt act cct ggt cac atg ggc ggt act gca ttc cag aaa 740 tat act ttc tgt act cct ggt cac atg ggc ggt act gca ttc cag aaa 740 tat act ttc tgt act cct ggt cac atg ggc ggt act gca ttc cag aaa 640 tat act ttc tgt act cct ggt tct tat gat ttc ttt ggt ccg aat acc atg 528 ser Pro Val Gly Ser Leu Phe Tyr Aep Phe Phe Gly Pro Aen Thr Met 165 aac ccg ggt agg tag ccg ttc tat gat ttc ttt ggt ccg aat acc atg 528 ser Pro Val Gly Ser Leu Phe Tyr Aep Phe Phe Gly Pro Aen Thr Met 166 aaa tct gat att tcc att ca gta tct gaa ctg ggt tct ctg ctg gat 576 Lyo Ser Aep Ile Ser Ile Ser Val Ser Glu Leu Gly Ser Leu Leu Aep 180 cac agt ggt cca cac aaa gaa gca gaa cag tat atc gct cgc gtc ttt 624 His Ser Gly Pro Hie Lyo Glu Ala Glu Gln Tyr Ile Ala Arg Val Phe 195 200 aac gac ggc agc tac atg gtg acc aac ggt act tcc act gcg aac 672 aac gac ggc agc tac tat gtg acc aca ggt act tcc act gcg aac 672 aac gac gac gac tac tat gtg acc aca ggt act tcc act gcg acc 472 aac act gtt ggt atg tac tct gct cca gca gca gga acc act tcc act gcg acc 472 aac act gtt ggt atg tac tct gct cca gca gca gat acc act tcc act gcg acc 472 aac act gtt ggt atg tac tct gct cca gca gca gca gca gat acc act tct gct gct gtt tcc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc a	Glu	_	_	_	_	Ile	_		_		Glu		_	_	_	Tyr	240		
Arg Leu Gln Ile Ser Phe Phe Glu Tyr Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Glu Asp 110 100 105 105 110 110 110 110 110 105 110 110			_		Thr					Āsp	_	_	_		Asp	_	288		
the Ala Asn Lys Ile Lys Gln Thr Thr Asp Glu Tyr Ile Asn Thr Ile 115 ctg cct ccg ctg act asa gas ctg ttt asa tat gtt cgt gas ggt asa Leu Pro Pro Leu Thr Lys Ala Leu Phe Lys Tyr Val Arg Glu Gly Lys 130 tat act ttc tgt act cct ggt cac atg ggc ggt act gca ttc cag asa Tyr Thr Phe Cys Thr Pro Gly His Met Gly Gly Thr Ala Phe Gln Lys 145 agc ccg gta ggt agc ctg ttc tat gat ttc ttt ggt ccg aat acc atg Ser Pro Val Gly Ser Leu Phe Tyr Asp Phe Phe Gly Pro Asn Thr Met 165 asa tct ggt att tca att tca gta tct gas ctg ggt tct ctg ctg gat Lys Ser Asp Ile Ser Ile Ser Val Ser Glu Leu Gly Ser Leu Leu Asp 180 cac agt ggt cca cac asa gas gca gas cag tat at ggt ccg gt ctt His Ser Gly Pro His Lys Glu Ala Glu Gln Tyr Ile Ala Arg Val Phe 195 asa att gtt ggt atg tac tct ggt acc asa ggt acc act tc act gcg aca gca gac cgc agc tac atg ggt acc asa ggt act tc act gcg acc Ann Ala Asp Arg Ser Tyr Met Val Thr Asn Gly Thr Ser Thr Ala Ann 210 asa att gtt ggt atg tac tct gct cca gca ggc agc acc att ctg att Lys Ile Val Gly Met Tyr Ser Ala Pro Ala Gly Ser Thr Ile Leu Ile 225 gac cgt aac tgc cac asa asa tcg ctg acc cac ctg atg atg atg atg agc ggt atc Asp Arg Asn Cys His Lys Ser Leu Thr His Leu Met Met Met Ser Asp 245 ggt acc aca cac asa gat gas ctc gt acc gc act at ggt acc ggt ggt atc cca cac asa gt gas ctc gc acc ctc act gcg acc ggt ggt atc cca cac asa gt gas ctc act ctg atg atg acg gas acc gt acc tat ttc cgc ccg acc ccg tac get tac ggt att ctt Val Thr Pro Ile Tyr Phe Arg Pro Thr Arg Asn Ala Tyr Gly Ile Leu 260 ggt ggt atc cca cac asa gt gas ttc cac gca gc acc att ctg atg 275 280 ggt agt atc cca cag agt gas ttc cac gca gc acc att gct aca gcc Gly Gly Ile Pro Gln Ser Glu Phe Gln His Ala Thr Ile Ala Lys Arg 275	_		_	Ile	_			_	Tyr		_		_	Āla	_	_	336		
Leu Pro Pro Leu Thr Lys Ala Leu Phe Lys Tyr Val Arg Glu Gly Lys 135 140 135 140 140 140 145 140 145 140 140 145 145 140 140 145 145 140 140 145 145 145 140 140 145 145 145 140 140 145 145 145 145 145 145 145 145 145 145		_	Asn	_		_	_	Thr		_	_		Ile				384		
Tyr Thr Phe Cys Thr Pro Gly His Met Gly Gly Thr Ala Phe Gln Lys 150 ago cog gta ggt ago ctg ttc tat gat ttc ttt ggt cog aat acc atg Ser Pro Val Gly Ser Leu Phe Tyr Asp Phe Phe Gly Pro Asn Thr Met 165 aaa tct gat att tcc att tca gta tct gaa ctg ggt tct ctg ctg gat Lys Ser Asp 11e Ser Ile Ser Val Ser Glu Leu Gly Ser Leu Leu Asp 180 cac agt ggt coa cac aaa gaa goa gaa cag tat atc gct cgc gtc ttt His Ser Gly Pro His Lys Glu Ala Glu Gln Tyr Ile Ala Arg Val Phe 195 aac gca gac cgc agc tac atg gtg acc aac ggt act tcc act gcg aac Asn Ala Asp Arg Ser Tyr Met Val Thr Asn Gly Thr Ser Thr Ala Asn 210 aaa att gtt ggt atg tac tct gct coa gca ggc agc acc att ctg att Lys Ile Val Gly Met Tyr Ser Ala Pro Ala Gly Ser Thr Ile Leu Ile 225 gac cgt aac tgc cac aaa tcg ctg acc cac ctg atg atg atg atg atg acg at Asp Arg Asn Cys His Lys Ser Leu Thr His Leu Met Met Met Ser Asp 245 gtt acg cca atc tat ttc cgc ccg acc cgt acc gct acc gt acg gt atc ctc act ggt atc ctc act ggt acc acc ttg atg atg atg acc acc ttg atg atg atg atg acc acc ttg atg atg atg atg acc acc ttg atg atg atg atg acc acc act at ttc cgc ccg acc ctc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc	_	Pro	_	_			Āla	_				Val	_	_			432		
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Lys Ser Asp Ile Ser Ile Ser Val Ser Glu Leu Gly Ser Leu Leu Asp 180 cac agt ggt cca cac aaa gaa gca gaa cag tat atc gct cgc gtc ttt His Ser Gly Pro His Lys Glu Ala Glu Gln Tyr Ile Ala Arg Val Phe 195 aac gca gac cgc agc tac atg gtg acc aac ggt act tcc act gcg aac Asp Arg Ser Tyr Met Val Thr Asn Gly Thr Ser Thr Ala Asn 210 aaa att gtt ggt atg tac tct gct cca gca ggc agc acc att ctg att 220 aaa att gtt ggt atg tac tct gct cca gca ggc agc acc att ctg att 195 Lys Ile Val Gly Met Tyr Ser Ala Pro Ala Gly Ser Thr Ile Leu Ile 225 gac cgt aac tgc cac aaa tcg ctg acc cac ctg atg atg atg atg agc gat 768 Asp Arg Asn Cys His Lys Ser Leu Thr His Leu Met Met Met Ser Asp 250 gtt acg cca atc tat ttc cgc ccg acc cgt aac gct tac ggt att ctt Val Thr Pro Ile Tyr Phe Arg Pro Thr Arg Asn Ala Tyr Gly Ile Leu 270 ggt ggt atc cca cag agt gaa ttc cag cac gct acc att gct aag cgc Gly Gly Ile Pro Gln Ser Glu Phe Gln His Ala Thr Ile Ala Lys Arg 275	_	_	_		Ser	_			_	Phe			_		Thr	_	528		
His Ser Gly Pro His Lys Glu Ala Glu Gln Tyr Ile Ala Arg Val Phe 195			_	Ile				_	Ser	_	_			Leu	_	_	576		
Asn Ala Asp Arg Ser Tyr Met Val Thr Asn Gly Thr Ser Thr Ala Asn 210 215 225 220 220 220 220 220 220 220 220 22		_	Gly				_	Āla	_	_			Āla	_	_		624		
Lys Ile Val Gly Met Tyr Ser Ala Pro Ala Gly Ser Thr Ile Leu Ile 225 230 235 240 gac cgt aac tgc cac aaa tcg ctg acc cac ctg atg atg atg agc gat Asp Arg Asn Cys His Lys Ser Leu Thr His Leu Met Met Met Ser Asp 245 250 255 gtt acg cca atc tat ttc cgc ccg acc cgt aac gct tac ggt att ctt Val Thr Pro Ile Tyr Phe Arg Pro Thr Arg Asn Ala Tyr Gly Ile Leu 260 265 270 ggt ggt atc cca cag agt gaa ttc cag cac gct acc att gct aag cgc Gly Gly Ile Pro Gln Ser Glu Phe Gln His Ala Thr Ile Ala Lys Arg 275 280 285		Āla	_	_	_		Met					Thr					672		
Asp Arg Asn Cys His Lys Ser Leu Thr His Leu Met Met Met Ser Asp 245 gtt acg cca atc tat ttc cgc ccg acc cgt aac gct tac ggt att ctt Val Thr Pro Ile Tyr Phe Arg Pro Thr Arg Asn Ala Tyr Gly Ile Leu 260 ggt ggt atc cca cag agt gaa ttc cag cac gct acc att gct aag cgc 864 Gly Gly Ile Pro Gln Ser Glu Phe Gln His Ala Thr Ile Ala Lys Arg 275 280 255 816 816 817 818 819 827 828	Lys	: Ile	_		_	Tyr		_		_	Gly	_			_	Ile	720		
Val Thr Pro Ile Tyr Phe Arg Pro Thr Arg Asn Ala Tyr Gly Ile Leu 260 265 270 ggt ggt atc cca cag agt gaa ttc cag cac gct acc att gct aag cgc Gly Gly Ile Pro Gln Ser Glu Phe Gln His Ala Thr Ile Ala Lys Arg 275 280 285	_	_		_	His		_	_		His	_	_	_	_	Ser	_	768		
Gly Gly Ile Pro Gln Ser Glu Phe Gln His Ala Thr Ile Ala Lys Arg 275 280 285	_	_		Ile			_	_	Thr	_		_		Gly			816		
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Val Lys Glu Thr Pro Asn Ala Thr Trp Pro Val His Ala Val Ile Thr 290		Lys	_				Āla			_	_	His	_	_			912		

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	Ser	acc Thr		_		_	_				_			_		960	
	_	gat Asp					_		_							1008	
		ttc Phe		_			_			_		_	_			1056	
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		aat Asn	_		_	_	_						_	_		1296	
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_		gaa Glu			_		_	_		_	_	_	_	_		1776	
	_	aaa Lys 595	_		_		_		_	_	_	_	_		_	1824	
_		gaa Glu	-	_	_	_	_	_	_		_		_	_		1872	

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	aac gcc aat atg Asn Ala Asn Met 645	_		_
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Ala Phe Ala Asn	Thr Tyr Ser Thr 85	Leu Asp Val Se	er Leu Asn Asp I 95	Leu
Arg Leu Gln Ile 100	Ser Phe Phe Glu	Tyr Ala Leu Gl 105	Ly Ala Ala Glu A 110	Asp
Ile Ala Asn Lys 115	Ile Lys Gln Thr 120		r Ile Asn Thr 1 125	Ile
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Tyr Thr Phe Cys 145	Thr Pro Gly His	Met Gly Gly Th		Lys 160
Ser Pro Val Gly	Ser Leu Phe Tyr 165	Asp Phe Phe Gl	y Pro Asn Thr N 175	Met
Lys Ser Asp Ile 180	Ser Ile Ser Val	Ser Glu Leu Gl 185	y Ser Leu Leu <i>I</i> 190	Asp
His Ser Gly Pro 195	His Lys Glu Ala 200	Glu Gln Tyr Il	le Ala Arg Val I 205	Phe
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Lys Ile Val Gly 225	Met Tyr Ser Ala 230	Pro Ala Gly Se 235		Ile 240
Asp Arg Asn Cys	His Lys Ser Leu 245	Thr His Leu Me	et Met Met Ser A 255	Asp

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Thr	Leu	Asp	Val	Lys 325		Ile	His	Phe	Asp 330		Ala	Trp	Val	Pro 335	Tyr
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Gly	Met	Glu	Lуs 500	Asp	Gly	Thr	Met	Ser 505	Asp	Phe	Gly	Ile	Pro 510	Ala	Ser
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Lys 545	Ala	Leu	Ser	Leu	Leu 550	Arg	Ala	Leu	Thr	Asp 555	Phe	Lys	Arg	Ala	Phe 560
Asp	Leu	Asn	Leu	Arg 565	Val	Lys	Asn	Met	Leu 570	Pro	Ser	Leu	Tyr	Arg 575	Glu
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		595					600				_	605	Met 	-	-
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Val	Gly	Arg	Ile	Asn 645	Ala	Asn	Met	Ile	Leu 650	Pro	Tyr	Pro	Pro	Gly 655	Val
Pro	Leu	Val	Met 660	Pro	Gly	Glu	Met	Ile 665	Thr	Glu	Glu	Ser	Arg 670	Pro	Val
Leu					Met		_			_			_	Pro	Gly

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Phe	Glu 690	Thr	Asp	Ile	His	Gly 695	Ala	Tyr	Arg	Gln	Ala 700	Asp	Gly	Arg	Tyr	
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aaa att gtg ggt atg tac gcc gcg cca tcc ggc agt acg ctg ttg atc

Lys Ile Val Gly Met Tyr Ala Ala Pro Ser Gly Ser Thr Leu Leu Ile

gac cgc aat tgt cat aaa tcg ctg gcg cat ctg ttg atg atg aac gat

Asp Arg Asn Cys His Lys Ser Leu Ala His Leu Leu Met Met Asn Asp

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											_	con	tin	ued		
_		cca Pro	_		_		_	_	_			_				
		atc Ile 275	_	_	_	_			_	_	_		_			
_	_	gct Ala		_		_			_	_						
		acc Thr		_		_					_				_	
_	_	gat Asp	_	_	_				_		_			_		
	_	ttt Phe	_	_			_			_		_	_			
_	_	gcg Ala 355						_	_		_		_		_	
_		gcg Ala		_	_	_	_	_								
_	_	gag Glu	_			_	_		_	_	_				_	
	_	tat Tyr			_	_		_		_					_	
_		aat Asn	_				_	_		_		_	_	_	_	
_		ttt Phe 435	_			_	_		_		_			_		
		ttc Phe	Āsp	Ile		Gln	Pro	Pro	Gln	Val	_	_	_	_	_	
		gtt Val				_							_		_	
_	_	cat His	_			_	_	_		_			_		_	
	_	gac Asp		_			_	_					_			
_		gca Ala 515						_								
		tat Tyr		_	_				_				_			
	_	atg Met			_	Arg		_	_	_			_			
		aac Asn														

						15											70	
											_	con	tin	ued				
_		_			cgc Arg		_	_		_	_	_	_		gly	1776		
		_	_		cgt Arg			_				_	_	_		1824		
_		Āsp		_	ccg Pro		Met		_	_		His	_	_		1872		
	_					Glu	_	_				_	_		ctg Leu 640	1920		
_		_	_	_	gca Ala		_		_				_		_	1968		
_	_	_	_		gga Gly	_	_	_				_	_		_	2016		
	_			_	atg Met		_	Ser	_						ggt Gly	2064		
	_	Thr	_		cac His				_	_	_	Āsp		_	tac Tyr	2112		
_	_	_	_		aaa Lys 710	Met										2142		
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			20					25					30		Gln			
		35			Asn Gly		40	_			_	45						
	50	_		-	Ile	55			_	_	60		-					
65 Ala	Phe	Ile	Asn		70 His	Ser	Thr	Met	_	75 Val	Ser	Val	Gln		80 Met			
Arg	Met	Ala	Leu 100	85 Trp	Phe	Phe	Glu	Tyr 105	90 Ala	Leu	Gly	Gln	Ala 110	95 Glu	Asp			
Ile	Ala	Ile 115	Arg	Met	Arg	Gln	Tyr 120		Asp	Glu	Tyr	Leu 125	Asp	Asn	Ile			
Thr	Pro 130		Phe	Thr	Lys	Ala 135	Leu	Phe	Thr	Tyr	Val 140	-	Glu	Arg	Lys			
Tyr 145	Thr	Phe	Cys	Thr	Pro 150	_	His	Met	Gly	Gly 155	Thr	Ala	Tyr	Gln	Lys 160			
Ser	Pro	Val	Gly	Суs 165	Leu	Phe	Tyr	Asp	Phe 170	Phe	Gly	Gly	Asn	Thr 175	Leu			
Lys	Ala	Asp	Val 180	Ser	Ile	Ser	Val	Thr 185	Glu	Leu	Gly	Ser	Leu 190	Leu	Asp			

		77	US	8,354,255 B2
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His Thr Gly 195	Pro His Leu	Glu Ala Glu 200	Glu Tyr Ile	Ala Arg Thr Phe 205
Gly Ala Glu 210	Gln Ser Tyr	Ile Val Thr 215	Asn Gly Thr 220	Ser Thr Ser Asn
Lys Ile Val 225	Gly Met Tyr 230	Ala Ala Pro	Ser Gly Ser 235	Thr Leu Leu Ile 240
Asp Arg Asn	Cys His Lys 245	Ser Leu Ala	His Leu Leu 250	Met Met Asn Asp 255
Val Val Pro	Val Trp Leu 260	Lys Pro Thr 265	Arg Asn Ala	Leu Gly Ile Leu 270
Gly Gly Ile 275	Pro Arg Arg	Glu Phe Thr 280	Arg Asp Ser	Ile Glu Glu Lys 285
Val Ala Ala 290	Thr Thr Gln	Ala Gln Trp 295	Pro Val His 300	Ala Val Ile Thr
Asn Ser Thr 305	Tyr Asp Gly	Leu Leu Tyr	Asn Thr Asp	Trp Ile Lys Gln 320
Thr Leu Asp	Val Pro Ser 325	Ile His Phe	Asp Ser Ala 330	Trp Val Pro Tyr 335
Thr His Phe	His Pro Ile 340	Tyr Gln Gly 345	Lys Ser Gly	Met Ser Gly Glu 350
Arg Val Ala 355	Gly Lys Val	Ile Phe Glu 360	Thr Gln Ser	Thr His Lys Met 365

Leu Ala Ala Leu Ser Gln Ala Ser Leu Ile His Ile Lys Gly Glu Tyr

Asp Glu Glu Ala Phe Asn Glu Ala Phe Met Met His Thr Thr Ser

Pro Ser Tyr Pro Ile Val Ala Ser Val Glu Thr Ala Ala Ala Met Leu

Arg Gly Asn Pro Gly Lys Arg Leu Ile Asn Arg Ser Val Glu Arg Ala

Leu His Phe Arg Lys Glu Val Gln Arg Leu Arg Glu Glu Ser Asp Gly

Trp Phe Phe Asp Ile Trp Gln Pro Pro Gln Val Asp Glu Ala Glu Cys

Trp Pro Val Ala Pro Gly Glu Gln Trp His Gly Phe Asn Asp Ala Asp

Ala Asp His Met Phe Leu Asp Pro Val Lys Val Thr Ile Leu Thr Pro

Gly Met Asp Glu Gln Gly Asn Met Ser Glu Glu Gly Ile Pro Ala Ala

Leu Val Ala Lys Phe Leu Asp Glu Arg Gly Ile Val Val Glu Lys Thr

Gly Pro Tyr Asn Leu Leu Phe Leu Phe Ser Ile Gly Ile Asp Lys Thr

Lys Ala Met Gly Leu Leu Arg Gly Leu Thr Glu Phe Lys Arg Ser Tyr

Asp Leu Asn Leu Arg Ile Lys Asn Met Leu Pro Asp Leu Tyr Ala Glu

Asp Pro Asp Phe Tyr Arg Asn Met Arg Ile Gln Asp Leu Ala Gln Gly

Ile His Lys Leu Ile Arg Lys His Asp Leu Pro Gly Leu Met Leu Arg

Ala Phe Asp Thr Leu Pro Glu Met Ile Met Thr Pro His Gln Ala Trp

-continued

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Gln Arg Gln Ile Lys Gly Glu Val Glu Thr Ile Ala Leu Glu Gln Leu
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Val Gly Arg Val Ser Ala Asn Met Ile Leu Pro Tyr Pro Pro Gly Val
                645
                                    650
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Pro Leu Leu Met Pro Gly Glu Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Ser Arg Thr Val
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                                665
                                                     670
Leu Asp Phe Leu Leu Met Leu Cys Ser Val Gly Gln His Tyr Pro Gly
        675
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The invention claimed is:

- 1. A method for producing an L-amino acid comprising:
- A) culturing in a medium an *Escherichia coli* bacterium 60 which has an ability to produce an L-amino acid and which has been modified to enhance β-glucoside PTS activity as compared to a corresponding non-modified microorganism, and
- B) collecting the L-amino acid from the medium or the microorganism;
- wherein said activity is enhanced by increasing expression of the bglF gene by a method selected from the group consisting of:
- A) increasing the copy number of the gene,
- B) modifying an expression regulatory sequence of the gene, and
- C) combinations thereof.
- 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said bglF gene is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5, and
- (b) a DNA encoding a protein having β-glucoside PTS activity which hybridizes with a DNA comprising a sequence fully complementary to the nucleotide 5 sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5 under stringent conditions comprising washing at 60° C., in a salt concentration of 1×SSC, 0.1% SDS.
- 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the bglF gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of:

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- (A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.6, and
- (B) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.6, and has β -glucoside PTS activity.
- 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-threonine, L-glutamic acid, and combinations thereof.

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